



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✕ December 2019

Reverently Speaking



“Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”

Matthew 24:42

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

We are now in the season of Advent, a time of preparation, a time of great expectation and great anticipation. But exactly what is it that we anticipate? What are we getting ready for? What do we expect to happen? Are we preparing our hearts and spirits to receive again the coming of the Christ child into the world? Or are we preparing for yet another month-long shopping spree that some have called “economic first-degree murder” – willfully and with malice aforethought murdering our bank accounts? Or maybe we're getting ready for the seven to ten pounds the average American will gain during the season? (Lord, please let me be an underachiever this year!) If we allow ourselves to get caught up in the consumer Christmas – and I firmly believe that we in America celebrate two separate events on December 25 – we can easily find that instead of preparing to sing “O Holy Night” we will find ourselves living out one holy nightmare.

But the Advent we celebrate in the church – the one that has nothing at all to do with the number of shopping days left until Christmas – is altogether different. The lighting of the Advent candles, the singing of Advent hymns, the scriptural readings – all these invite us to dream dreams of a better world, to allow expectant visions that have nothing to do with sugar-plum fairies to dance in our heads. Advent invites us to fill the cup of today with a full measure of tomorrow.

What sort of images come to your mind when you think about Advent? Maybe it's the Advent wreath, the Salvation Army bell ringers in front of stores, or the huge, brightly-lit tree in Rockefeller Center in New York City.

The way we see Advent and Christmas will determine our approach to the celebration. Is the essential work of Advent hanging decorations or is it more about opening our lives to the coming Christ and learning to live in peace? Will Christmas come only if we do all the right things to get ready for it? Or is Christmas a gift from God that arrives whether we're ready for it or not?

Even a casual reading of the Bible reveals that the Advent of God is much more about surprise than predictability, more about revelation than decoration. The message of Advent is not “Put up the decorations! Here I come!” but “Watch and wait! You must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

God's entrance into our lives in the person of Jesus Christ occurs at God's initiative and not ours. Christ arrives in our midst not as a reward for our careful preparation for his coming, but as a result of the love and compassion of God. Christ comes to us whether we're ready or not.

(continued)

The disciples asked about the timing of the Second Coming, but Jesus said that's the wrong question. Their question should be what are they supposed to do in the meanwhile, while they are awaiting his coming. The important thing for us, in this season of Advent, is not *when* Jesus will be coming again, but what the quality of our waiting will be in the meanwhile.

Jesus doesn't call us to a passive, do-nothing kind of waiting. Jesus says to the disciples and to us that the way we live together in the world as Kingdom people, as Advent people, is serious business and calls for an active faith.

Advent invites us to look to the future, but its most demanding challenge and most exciting promise come in the announcement that the present is Kingdom time, too. The incarnation – God coming to dwell in human flesh – declares that the cup of the present is filled to overflowing with the presence of God. The message of Advent is that each moment has eternal significance, that the God of all things past and things future, is also the God of the here and now. God invites us to live in the present in expectation and awareness of the fact that eternal realities can and do break in at any moment.

Jesus has told us that the kingdom of God is “breaking in” (an interesting choice of words). Advent reminds us that God often breaks in to our lives unexpectedly. We cannot know the time or the day of our next encounter with the holy. Neither can we predict whether that meeting will be a joyful experience of forgiveness and peace, a call to repentance and responsibility, or some combination of the two. But we can realize that it will come and attempt to be ready and actively waiting.

So now that the first Advent candle has been lit, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, as the song says. But are we ready for Christmas yet? I don't think so. But that's why there are *four* Sundays in Advent.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese

A Medieval Advent

The medieval church understood Advent differently than we do. While we see Advent as preparation for celebrating the first coming of Jesus, the medieval church saw it as preparation for Christ's second coming — to engage in fasting and penitence in anticipation that the one who came in the manger would be coming again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Advent was an eschatological focus on the “last things” and that played itself out in practice.

Take the Advent wreath candles, for example. They have represented a lot of different things over the centuries. For most Protestants today they represent Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, wonderful themes anticipating Christmas. But in the medieval church, the meanings were quite different: The candles represented death, judgment, heaven and hell. The Scripture readings for Advent were only secondarily oriented toward the birth of Jesus. Instead, the primary emphasis was on the coming “day of the Lord.”

In other words, Advent wasn't so much about getting quickly to the light of Christmas, but about acknowledging the darkness that appears before the dawn. Advent was a season for realism, not Christmas dreams and shopping. In fact, in the medieval age, the Christmas season *began* with Christmas Day and extended 12 days (the 12 days of Christmas). That's when you went shopping for pipers piping, maids a-milking and a partridge in a pear tree!

Advent, in other words, was a season acknowledging that we live between two ages — the present age and the age to come. It is the midnight of the Christian year; a time to be thinking about last things. You will find that the light of Christmas burns a lot more brightly when we acknowledge the darkness.

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 8th 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 14** from 10:00am-noon. The Christmas Pageant will take place on **Sunday,**

December 15 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 Victor Van Pelt, anytime at 813-898-3415.

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. 8th. 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 14 at 12noon-2pm

Volunteers are needed for games, treats and present delivery!

Christmas Ornaments Are Here !!

Your Outreach Committee members are spearheading another wonderful money raising project to benefit the Lunch Program and the Klean Kit packets. During the Sunday Coffee Hours in November and December, we will be selling beautiful Christmas ornaments with the water color image of St. Andrew's. You will definitely want to display these on your Christmas tree or in your table decorations. The cost is only \$10 per ornament. So why not buy one for a family member or friend as well as for yourself? They will make great Christmas gifts!



SAINT ANDREW'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 14 — 12:00 p.m.

Gabriel Giving Tree Christmas Party



Sunday, December 15 — 10:30 a.m. service

Christmas Pageant



Sunday, December 22 — 11:45 a.m.

Greening of the Church



Sunday, December 22 — 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Lessons & Carols

followed by Parish Christmas Party



Tuesday, 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.



Wednesday, 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 20th • 6:00—10:00pm
159 W. Davis Blvd
(NE corner of W. Davis and Barbados, on Davis Islands)*

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 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 22nd 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.

Stewardship 2020

Dear St. Andrew's Family,

It's exciting to witness the many ways in which the generous *planting of seeds* by parishioners at St. Andrew's bear fruit. Because of those seeds our church is able to nurture life-giving, joyful ministries focused both inside and outside of our parish walls.

In addition to ministries that have existed for decades, such as our Music Ministry and Sunday School, other ministries have expanded to meet specific and evolving needs. Feeding the homeless and providing school supplies are just a couple examples of outreach ministries that have sprung to life in the last few years.

This year's Annual Giving campaign reminds us that our financial support, in the form of a pledge to the Operating Budget, not only helps to further the current mission and ministries of St. Andrew's, but also to ensure the future work of our church.

You have always been so supportive whether generously giving of your time, wisdom, experience, passion, or financial resources to sustain and grow our work and ministries. As we begin this year's Annual Giving campaign, we hope we can count on your support again.

Below is a pledge card for 2020. Please prayerfully consider the amount you pledge financially so that St. Andrew's can continue to extend our reach, sharing God's love with even more people and making a positive difference in the lives of everyone in our community and beyond.

If you have any questions or would like to further discuss making a financial pledge to Saint Andrew's please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Faithfully,

Piers Curry

Piers Curry, Treasurer

Shining Our Light: 2020 Pledge

To help shine God's Light brightly in 2020, 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

The Gift of the Nutcracker

Draw closer to Christ this Christmas by exploring this holiday classic. *The Nutcracker* was first performed in 1892, quickly becoming a holiday tradition, one that continues for many families to this day. In this four week video series, Matt Rawle takes a look at this Christmas classic in a new way—through the lens of faith. In keeping with his “Pop in Culture” theme, Rawle uses the iconic tale to help us understand God’s greatest gift of the Christ child and of the kingdom Christ came to build. Much like Clara, we are all caught in an Advent season, pondering a most extraordinary gift. Rawle is Lead Pastor at Asbury United Methodist Church in Bossier City, Louisiana.

Here is the line-up:

- 12/8 – Drosselmeyer: A Godfather’s Love
- 12/15 – The Mouse King: Changing Perspective
- 12/22 – The Nutcracker: The Greatest Gift

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 on hiatus until January when we begin a study of the Book of Daniel. History, prophecy, apocryphal writings, and miracles! All in 12 chapters! Watch this space for details!

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

Youth News

The year is quickly coming to an end, and here are our events to finish it up:

December:

- 8th Pageant practice during Children’s Chapel
- 14th Pageant dress rehearsal
- 15th Christmas pageant / Youth Sunday

January:

- 11th Winter Jam

If you ever have any questions or comments, please call me, Victor Van Pelt, anytime at 813-898-3415.



From the Parish Register

Deaths

Mary Jean Gibson
Lea Mae Hunter Hackney
Nell Keen



Transfer Out

Susan Casper
to Hyde Park Methodist, Tampa

♪ Meet The Choir ♪



Marshall Corzette:

How long have you been in the St. Andrew's Choir? Thanksgiving Service will be my one-year anniversary with St. Andrew's!

When did you get started in music, and why? I started in choir while in middle school to get out of P.E. But then I started to teach myself piano and fell in love with it.

If you were stranded on a deserted island and could only bring recordings of two composers, who would you bring, and why? Jason Robert Brown (I am a sucker for musical theatre) and Morten Lauridsen (BEAUTIFUL choral music there).

What is one of your most memorable musical experiences? At Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan, the Advanced Counselor choir improvised a song during a performance. It was the first time I have ever done that with a choir and it was an amazing experience. We started holding hands in the middle of it because it just felt like we were all so connected making this massive work of music. I honestly don't know how long it lasted and have no recording, but I will always remember that.

What is the last book that you've read? "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime" by Mark Haddon.

Hobbies/interests outside of music? I have always loved baking as well as cross-country (so much for ditching P.E. in middle-school).



Damon Lazzara:

How long have you been in the St. Andrew's Choir? My first service was January 5, 2017.

When did you get started in music, and why? Since I was a toddler, my parents knew from my reaction to classical music and jazz that I was musically inclined. I began music lessons in piano and theory at age 3, trumpet at age 7, piano again at 14, and voice at 21 (tenor voices mature late).

If you were stranded on a deserted island and could only bring recordings of two composers, who would you bring, and why? If I couldn't play them on a suitable audio system, and I couldn't hear the music performed live, I'd prefer to leave behind the recordings and enjoy the memories--while singing along, of course.

What is one of your most memorable musical experiences? In 2004, I performed Benjamin Britten's "St. Nicolas Cantata" as guest tenor soloist with the Choir of St. Andrew's, members of the Florida Orchestra, and a cast of many other musicians and singers from the Tampa Bay area. Despite my ill-timed tonsillitis, and thanks to TFO Bassist Dee Moses, who recommended Olbas Pastilles throat lozenges to me at our dress rehearsal, the performance was a triumph.

Make a Pledge for 2020

Please return your pledge card for 2020 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 105 pledges for \$319,112.

October Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT – Fr. Reese

As of 10/15/19, there was \$109,315 in ops account and \$105,824 in the parish reserve account.

As of 7/31/19, there was \$26,847 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry. (There is still \$6,650 to be paid from this account for the new roof we are having done on south side of church. Foundation already paid a 3K first installment on this.)

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 \$2,655,677 in the Foundation principal as of 9/30/19 (as compared to \$2,421,641 at end of 2018, a 234K increase over nine months).

There is also \$98,466 in the Dan Curtis fund fbo St. Andrew's within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, with about \$700 in grant money currently available. We spent 6.5K from this fund earlier in the year to pay for church roof repairs of tiles broken during January termite tenting.

717 Parking Contract – has been finalized. 717 is working on the new signage to be erected throughout the parking lot.

Church Roof – work will hopefully begin on south side roof before our 2021 Sesquicentennial celebration. We decided to pay the \$9,650 bill with Foundation funds.

Fir Pump repairs – CINTAS is waiting on parts. Cost is \$5,460, which we are paying from the reserve fund.

Organ Recital to Celebrate 25th Anniversary of the Fisk Organ – was on Sunday, 9/29 at 3PM. Ryan played well and we had a great turnout (149 souls). Thanks to Parish Life for a fine reception after the recital.

Pet Blessing – was in church courtyard on Saturday, 10/5 at 10AM. We had about two dozen canines and two brave felines.

Oktoberfest – was on Sonntag, 10/6 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!

October 2019 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$56,255	\$47,095	\$413,902	\$470,956
Expenses	\$60,027	\$47,095	\$467,128	\$470,956
Net	(\$3,771)	(\$0)	(\$53,226)	(\$0)

Diocesan Convention – was on Saturday, 10/12. All our lay convention delegates were there (George, Paula, and Donreece). The Diocesan assessment for 2020 will be 58K, as opposed to 62K in 2019 and 55K in 2018.

Annual Stewardship Campaign – is in full swing. Anita spoke at 8AM service and Richard spoke at 10:30 service on Sunday, 10/6. Frazier Carraway spoke at 10:30 service on 10/13. Pledge cards were mailed out the first week of October. Next round of pledge cards will go out first week of November. Richard, can you write the letter that will accompany that mailing? Third round of pledge cards will be sent first week of December. Is there a vestry member willing to write that one? Postcard reminders will go out first week of January and again the first week of February.

First Presbyterian Church is moving from downtown by June of 2020. Representatives from First Presbyterian asked to meet with Fr. Reese to see our premises and to explore the possibility of us taking on part, or all, of their Saturday morning outreach ministry. They currently provide a hot meal that is prepared at Metropolitan Ministries, a clothes pantry and some medical and dental care provided by volunteers from USF Medical School. Their food hall is much larger than our Parish Hall. They took a look at the vacant 4th floor to determine whether or not it could be converted to space they could use for their clothes pantry and medical clinic. The Vestry discussed pros and cons of taking over this work. We appreciate the idea of the outreach aspects of it, particularly as an urban church. Some of the negative aspects are the wear and tear on St. Andrew's, concerns about Saturday functions at St. Andrew's such as funerals and weddings, and the fact that the 4th floor would have to be made usable and whether or not First Presbyterian would be willing to pay for the buildout. They liked our facilities.

Gray Sanders, Paula Stewart and Lori Taplow will pay a visit to First Pres' Saturday morning event to see what all it entails.

SENIOR WARDEN – Richard Ferlita

Four people have accepted the nomination to run for vestry at the election at the upcoming annual meeting are. Several others are considering running.

We finally heard from the Presiding Bishop's office about his schedule and whether or not he would be available to attend our upcoming sesquicentennial invitation. Our invitation was declined.

Richard met with Canon Norman, who is no stranger to centennial celebrations. He has provided some great suggestions to Richard.

Richard has met with Fr. Reese and will now begin to set up committee chairs for the sesquicentennial celebration.

JUNIOR WARDEN - George Levy

George attended the Diocesan Convention. There were a lot of new by-laws considered and passed.

The fire pump repair is taking some time, CINTAS is waiting for parts to arrive.

Roofing repairs continue to be delayed due to weather and staffing concerns.

Painting is being considered for the rectory exterior and the church interior.

The photocopier in the church office reached the end of its lifespan. While the leasing amount is higher on the new contract, our payments will be lower because the per-copy charge is being cut in half.

TREASURER - Piers Curry

Expenses are under budget. Revenue is going well coming out of the summer months. Financially we are in good shape for this time of year. Some pledges are already being closed out for 2019, which is great.

OUTREACH – Ingrid Muellerleile

We are so grateful to announce that \$5,700 has been donated so far to the Lunch Program. The generosity of our parishioners is just wonderful!

Oktoberfest went very smoothly, successfully taking in over \$800 benefitting Metropolitan Ministries. To add to our contribution, announcements have been placed for the food collection for Metro Min Thanksgiving Boxes, and for the next events: Fish Fry – December 8th, and Gabriel’s Giving Tree (Hands will be available Nov. 17). The plan is to pre-sell tickets for the Fish Fry as we did for Oktoberfest.

We are excited to announce that we will soon have beautiful shatterproof Christmas ornaments with the water color image of St. Andrew’s on them. We have Chris Capsambelis and Richard Ferlita to thank for these. Chris brought us the idea and Richard brought it to fruition. We plan to sell the ornaments for \$10, with the proceeds benefitting the Lunch Program.

CHRISTIAN ED – Brad Hall

Halloween Party is coming up.

A lock-in is scheduled for next month.

The Christmas Pageant is scheduled for December 15th. Planning is underway.

HELPING HANDS – Paula Stewart

For the weekday lunch program, sandwiches provided by an external source have become a problem. They are taxing our refrigerator and are being delivered every 2 weeks so that, as the days go by, the sandwiches become stale and moldy. This is unhealthy for those who depend upon us. It is also creating an opportunity for insects in the kitchen. We will ask that the sandwich providers consider an alternative, such as fresh fruit, instead.

OLD BUSINESS – Peter Baker

The week of the 28th, 717 Parking will be install new signage in the parking lot. Peter will let parishioners know that they are welcome to park along the fence with a St. Andrew’s windshield sticker. The lot across the street that we use at holidays will have an automatic gate at some time in the future.

Peter also proposed amendments to be presented at the upcoming annual meeting. Our church charter and by-laws list our church as “St. Andrews Church, Inc.” The proposal is that we change the name to “St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church of Tampa, Inc.” According to the current by-laws, the vestry membership is limited to “lay baptized male members of the corporation.” “Male” needs to be deleted, since we actually allow women to serve on vestry. Additionally, references in our Charter that indicate “Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Florida” should be updated to reflect the correct title of “The Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida.”

The Vestry will review and approve these changes prior to presenting them for a vote at the annual meeting.

Peter will also review St. Andrew’s Foundation’s Articles of Incorporation.

Next vestry meeting will be **Monday, November 18th at 5:30p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Taplow

Vestry Clerk



All Saints Evensong Sunday, November 3



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
Lauri in the church office.