



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✱ February 2020

Reverently Speaking

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

"Mushers" are people who travel by dog sled over snowy, frozen terrain. "Mushers" have a saying: "If you're not the lead dog, the scenery never changes." That "Mushers" saying has become a centerpiece doctrine of the leadership literature that has been inundating the corporate world for years. If you are not the "top dog," in other words, no matter how far you travel your journey is just going to be a "tale of tails."

Striving to be "top dog" is the goal we are encouraged to achieve from our earliest childhood to our graduate school education. No one wants to be the "under dog." Being "on top" means getting the best grades in school, in order to get the best opportunities, the best treatment, the best salary, the best office, the best seats in the house, the best table, the best of everything everywhere you go. Who could possibly not see the advantages that come with being at the "top" and not the "bottom" of the heap?

In 1897 vision scientist and psychologist George M. Stratton (1865-1957) created a pair of glasses that turned the world upside down. Actually, he turned the world right-side-up because our eyes project an image to our brains that is naturally upside down. Our brains take an image and invert it — giving us our "right side up" perception of the world. Stratton strapped on his goggles and proceeded to blunder into things for several days. In this new, now "upside-down" world, his brain was seeing liquids "poured up," he saw himself walking on ceilings. Everything he viewed was completely inverted.

But only for a few days. Our eyes are our cameras, but the pictures we take with our eyes are developed by our brains. After a few days Stratton recorded that his most powerful visual organ, his brain, had figured out that something was amiss. After a few days his brain re-inverted the images it was receiving, and the world no longer looked upside down to the scientist. His brain completely flipped the images and presented him with a right-side up world once again. The process took about three days. In other words, it took the brain three days to do a double-flip and restore the world back to "normal."

When Stratton ditched the inversion goggles and tried to look out at the world again, everything was turned upside down. His brain had trained itself to perceive the visual world differently. It took another three days without the "goo-goo goggles" before Stratton's brain once again figured out how to "flip" its visual messages. Three days and the human brain figures it out and heals itself.

So if you find yourself with your world turned "upside-down;" if you think you are the ultimate "underdog," if you think you are at the "bottom of the heap," change your perception. There is no "top." There is no "bottom." There is only the way we choose to process our experiences of this world. You cannot "believe what you see." You can only believe. . . And trust that God will tell you which way is up, and which way is down; which way is "to the top;" and which way is "to the bottom;" and when the way "to the bottom" may actually be the way "to the top."

The Apostle Paul boldly declares that the centerpiece of Christian faith, the crucifixion of Jesus the Christ, is a "stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles (1 Cor. 1:23)." The one who was sent to save could not save himself. The incarnated Lord became just another Roman casualty. The one whose life was the most precious to the Creator of the universe was sacrificed for the sake of the creation.

(continued)

That is an upside down reality. That is a world-view turned topsy-turvy. That is a flipped faith. And that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That is why, if the story of Jesus is not startling us, we are not in the right story. If the story of Jesus is not reversing our categories and making us do flip-flops in our faith and somersaults in our suppositions, we are not reading it right.

Jesus' death turned the world upside down. His lifting up on a cross made weakness a strength. His love made the heat of hatred a cold shower. His death was not futile. His death gave us life. The downheartening is the uplifting; the upside is the downside, and the downside is the upside.

The legal process of Rome thought that "lifting" Jesus up on the cross lowered him to be an example demonstrating the limitless power of Roman law. Instead Jesus "lifted up" on the cross became a completely new, upside-down symbol of the power of love over the "power of power." Jesus' triumph over tragedy was the inversion of top to bottom, the inversion of strength and servanthood, the inversion of the all-powerful and all-loving.

There is a lot of "processed" living in the church and not enough possessed living. But possessed living is what it means to lift up Christ. A church that lifts up Christ is a church truly possessed, entirely possessed by the Holy Spirit. This is what the Spirit does – the old world is made new through disciples that can "turn the world upside-down," as Acts puts it.

No one can guarantee that this next week will not be the last week of our lives. But the Christian tradition does promise one thing: that God can turn the worst disasters into the best blessings, that calamities can become something redemptive, and even that one's death day will be one's birthday into eternity.

How many times have you heard, or muttered to yourself, the words, "Why isn't life fair?" I know so-and-so, who always seems to be at the right place at the right time. And my timing is always off. I seem to be at the worst places at the worst times.

There is one thing life isn't: fair. (Of course, "fairness" cuts both ways. Why was I born to a loving mother rather than to a distant and neglectful one? Why was I born in America rather than born in Afghanistan?) Every one of us has at least one area of our life where we must learn how to make bricks with a minimum of straw. Most of us have multiple areas of brick-making from straw-mucking.

But this topsy-turvy Gospel of ours says that where fairness is least, grandness and nobility can be greatest.

That's why we can enjoy every moment as a gift from God.

And that's why you can trust God with your tomorrow.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese

Annual Lincoln-Douglass Ball
Saturday, February 22, at 6PM
Embassy Suites USF, 3705 Spectrum Blvd

This annual event, which celebrates and honors the relationship of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, benefits the Cornerstone Kids, an after-school program at St. James-House of Prayer Episcopal Church in Tampa Heights. The program reaches at-risk, inner city children from ages 5-11 who reside in lower income, single-parent households. The mission of Cornerstone Kids is to assist in their educational, spiritual and emotional development in a safe, secure, and nurturing environment. St. Andrew's is sponsoring a table for ten this year. If you would like to attend this masquerade ball, please RSVP to Pam in the office (813-221-2035).

Your only cost will be your dress to impress costume!

Tuesday Evening Lenten Series

Our annual Lenten series will begin this year on Shrove Tuesday, February 25th, and continue weekly through March 31st.

Each evening begins at 5:30pm with Holy Eucharist in the Children's Chapel.
A potluck supper follows at 6pm in the Parish Hall and the program begins at 6:45pm.

The presenter this year is our own Dr. Ray Vince, who teaches English at Hillsborough Community College.

Our lives are often described as a journey, and the season of Lent is a good time to focus on that reality. The Journey has been described in various ways, both in the classics & moderns of Literature and also in the community of Faith. In our 2020 Lenten Series, we shall listen to twelve of those literary ways, look for parallels in the Bible & Christian experience, and seek to integrate our faith more into the journey of life.

The Journey in Literature & Faith

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Feb 25 th | Tell me about a complicated man (Homer)
Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> (ca. 750-650 BC) & Virgil, <i>The Aeneid</i> (19 BC)
Hosted by St. Andrew's Youth |
| Mar 3 rd | Midway on our life's journey (Dante)
Dante, <i>The Inferno</i> (1320) & Chaucer, <i>Canterbury Tales</i> (ca. 1400)
Hosted by the Choir |
| Mar 10 th | As I walked through the wilderness (Bunyan)
Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> (1667) & Bunyan, <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> (1678)
Hosted by Altar Guild |
| Mar 17 th | The world is charged with the grandeur of God (Hopkins)
Hopkins, "God's Grandeur" (1877) & Dickinson, "Tell it slant" (ca. 1868)
Hosted by Daughters of the King |
| Mar 24 th | Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold (Yeats)
Yeats "The Second Coming" (1920) & Auden, "September 1, 1939" (1939)
Hosted by Outreach |
| Mar 31 st | The world offers itself to your imagination (Oliver)
Oliver, "Wild Geese" (1986) & Buechner, <i>A Room Called Remember</i> (1992).
Hosted by the Vestry and Parish Life |
| | 5:30pm Holy Communion, Children's Chapel
6:00pm Potluck Supper, Parish Hall
6:45-7:30 Lenten Series Program |

St. Andrew's Church Celebrates 150 years

It is time to begin finalizing the plans to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our beloved St. Andrew's. There will be a meeting on **Saturday, February 22nd at 10 A.M.** in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited. We will be discussing the festivities which will begin in September 2020 and end in May 2021. We are looking for individuals who desire to be the chairperson of a committee or be assigned to a committee. The committees developed at this point are:

Historical Committee
Music Committee
Communications and Advertising Committee
Banquet Committee (May 8, 2021)
Anniversary Church Service (May 9, 2021)

Please join your fellow parishioners for this important planning session and bring your creative ideas along with where your talents can be utilized. Thank you.



Shrove Tuesday February 25th

5:30pm Holy Eucharist in the Children's Chapel
6:00pm Pancake Supper in the Parish Hall
(hosted by St. Andrew's Youth)
6:45pm – 7:30pm Lenten Series begins (page 3)

Ash Wednesday, February 26th

Service times at St. Andrew's

7:30am Holy Eucharist (Rite One) in the Chapel
12:10pm Holy Eucharist (Rite Two with hymns)
7:00pm Holy Eucharist (Rite Two with choir)



Save the Date!

The Parish Picnic is back! Jan & Earl Smith have graciously agreed to host the picnic at their home in Lutz on **Sunday** afternoon, **March 29**. Hope to see you there!



From the Parish Register

Deaths

Brucie Johnston

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

The New Testament You Never Knew

Do you know the real story behind the New Testament?

We all share a fascination for discovering ‘the rest of the story.’ We enjoy learning the behind-the-scenes facts about seemingly familiar events. In this eight-session video Bible study, well-known Bible scholars N.T. Wright and Michael F. Bird team up to take you on a tour of the story behind the explosive story of the New Testament.

You will discover things you never knew about Jesus’ baptism and journey into the wilderness, the meaning behind his parables and miracles, the significance of his death and resurrection, the incredible expansion of the early church into the Greco-Roman world, and how the transforming mission of Jesus can still turn the world upside down today.

Through reading the New Testament we continually discover that God indeed keeps his promises, but those promises don’t always look like what people expected. Especially when it comes to Jesus. So, come join the journey with N.T. Wright and Michael Bird and they will help you understand the New Testament you never knew.

Here is the rest of the line up:

2/9 - The Early Christians and the Church

2/16 - The Mission of the Church

2/23 - The Creation of the New Testament

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

Youth News

Upcoming Events:

Strawberry Festival **March 2nd**

New Beginnings #67 is happening **March 6th-8th** for Middle Schoolers at Dayspring

Also, we are looking for wine donations for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (STPD) so donate some wine and help make it a jolly time.

During Lent for the next 5 Tuesday evenings after Ash Wednesday, we will have children/youth classes while the adults are having theirs. We need some volunteers during this time so think about giving one Tuesday night for the kids and their parents.

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

December 2019 Vestry Meeting Highlights

Ingrid Muellerleile introduced the Vestry to an Outreach Ministry to be considered as a partner to our outreach at St. Andrew's. Love INC which is the acronym for Love in the Name of Christ is a not-for-profit, all volunteer national organization which partners with local churches to provide outreach assistance to change lives not just for the immediate needs but for the long term; not just a handout but a hand up to help people. They coordinate the efforts of all the ministries of the various churches they partner with and put those in need with the resources they have organized. Ingrid introduced the Executive Director of Love In the Name of Christ of Metro Tampa, Mike Doyle, who gave us more details about the program. They recruit and train volunteers in the partner churches. They do not provide hands on service delivery. They have a help center and all services stem from that center. Bus passes, prescription refills, etc., are all within their purview. Additionally, they will "church" unchurched people. Trained volunteers, a Ministry coordinator, prayer and financial support would be necessary from St. Andrew's if we engage with them. Fr. Reese was provided with a church covenant to review. He suggested that his discretionary fund could be a source of income for this project.

Peter Baker moved that we further the discussion of Love INC with partner churches and decide if we are going to commit funds to this outfit. Gray Sanders seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 12/9/19, there was \$121,150 in ops account and \$97,534 in the parish reserve account.

As of 12/10/19, there was \$19,381 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry. (We recently paid TNT Roofers \$6,436 from this account for the new roof on south side of church.)

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 \$2,718,333 in the Foundation principal as of 11/4/19 (as compared to \$2,421,641 at end of 2018, a \$296,692 increase for the year).

There is also \$98,539 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.

Annual Stewardship Campaign – is ongoing. The third round of pledge cards went out 12/3. As of 12/9/19, we have 113 pledges for 348K (as compared to 118 pledges for 321K at this time last year). See the attached pledge update. There are still 57 pledgers who pledged 90K in 2019 whom we have not heard from for 2020. With that in mind, you will receive names and phone numbers of such people at the vestry meeting on Monday.

The vestry took names of parishioners in order to follow up on pledges that have not yet arrived.

December 2019 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$152,808	\$47,095	\$606,213	\$565,146
Expenses	\$43,656	\$47,095	\$558,135	\$565,146
Net	\$109,151	\$0	\$48,077	\$0

Mission and Ministry Dividend – the Diocese will once again be giving rebates to congregations (such as St. Andrew's) that paid their diocesan assessments on time this year. For us, it means about \$3,000 cash back.

Peter Baker made a motion to allocate the \$3,000 Diocesan dividend check toward Outreach and Love INC, should we agree to go with them. George Levy seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Thanksgiving Day Service – was on Thursday, 11/28 at 10AM. We had a nice group of thankful souls.

Fish Fry – was Sunday, 12/8 after the 10:30 service, served up by our Outreachers. Great grouper! Good crowd! Well done, Outreachers!

Lori Taplow, Gray Sanders and Paula Stewart will attend the morning outreach program at First Presbyterian on Saturday, December 28th at 9am.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Richard Ferlita

Gabriel's Giving Tree party was fabulous. We have five vestry nominees: Lynn Jackson Dorman, Sue MacIsaac, Jennifer Richardson, Jim Morgan, and Gary Cotter.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy

The south side church roof repair has now been completed after delays. The membrane in the catwalk up in the bell tower was worn and has been repaired.

Reserve funds will cover the replacement of the water heater in the Rectory (as approved in our previous meeting). This project will take place over the Christmas break.

The painting projects for the church interior and rectory exterior will commence in January. Contracts have been signed and the contractor is ready to go.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Piers Curry

Our finances are in great shape and we are well within budget. The Joy McCann funds have arrived and many parishioners have stepped forward to bring their pledges current for year end.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Brad Hall

Children's Christmas pageant was a success. The Replay Museum will be on the calendar again. This center features old video games that the children can play.

OUTREACH – Ingrid Muellerleile

Proceeds from our Oktoberfest this year were \$775.00, w/ an additional \$300 in donations, for a total of \$1,075 going to Metropolitan Ministries. Along with this donation will be \$135 in Publix gift cards and 673 lbs. of food.

Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed a great meal at our annual St. Andrew's Fish Fry! We were especially blessed to have Katie Pastorious' nephew Bobby, a professional fisherman, who caught & filleted over 45 pounds of grouper. He & Chris Capsambelis did a great job frying the fish to perfection. Annual proceeds going to Gabriel's Giving Tree & Party were \$ 685.00 + \$2,150 in donations, for a total of \$2,835.

There will be more of an update on the Party at our next meeting, but we sent out a thank you to Martha Cobb, Lin Busby and Nekeshia Hammond for their coordination and all their hard work! And not to forget to send a big "Thank you" to Santa and Mrs. Claus who took time out of their busy North Pole duties to stop by and give such joy to all the children and their families at the party!

Outreach extends a thank you to everyone for their generosity of time, treasures and spirit!

They are excited to report that the ornament sales are going very well. Outreach has sold over 54 ornaments for a total of \$540 thus far.

HELPING HANDS – Barbara Brotherton

Helping Hands was involved in hosting a recent funeral reception with another upcoming.

OLD BUSINESS

We need volunteers to attend to the parking lot gate across the street for the 5:30 Christmas service.

Changes to the charter of St. Andrew's, as recommended by Peter Baker in our previous vestry meeting, have been submitted to the Diocese. The Diocese made some amendments which were approved. These amendments to our charter need to be publicized and then presented at the Annual Meeting.

Richard Ferlita moved that we approve and publish the amendments. This motion was seconded by George Levy and was carried.

PARISH LIFE – Don Crawford

Parish Life will be hosting the upcoming St. Andrew's Christmas Party following Lessons and Carols this Sunday.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 25th ✕ 6:00pm



Translation:

Roses are red, violets are blue, if you love me you'll go for a physical,
you're long overdue.

Thank you honey, I bet you wrote this yourself.

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.