



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# THE CALL

*Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!*

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✱ August 2020

## *Reverently Speaking*

*But she (the Canaanite woman) came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.*

Matthew 15:25-28

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

The headline read: "Arkansas woman texted father's number every day after he died; she got a response four years later."

That made the story below the headline sound like an outreach from the other side of the grave. But the actual story was far less sensational.

For four years, Chastity Patterson, then 23, of Newport, Arkansas, had been mourning the death of Jason Lignons, who, while not her biological father, had been so much like a father to her that she called him Dad.

After he died, Chastity continued to text his phone every day to update him about her life. While she didn't expect a response, the daily texting was a way of dealing with her grief. In her message on the night before the fourth anniversary of Lignons' death, she told about how she'd beaten cancer and hadn't gotten sick since his passing. She also wrote about falling in love and having her heart broken, joking that Lignons "would have killed" the guy.

But then, she received a response.

It was not Lignons, but a man, identified only as Brad, who had been receiving her daily messages these past four years.

"I am not your father," Brad texted, "but I have been getting all your messages for the past four years. ... I lost my daughter in a car wreck (in) August 2014 and your messages have kept me alive," Brad said. "When you text me, I know it's a message from God."

Brad went on to say that he had read her messages for all that time but hadn't texted her back for fear of breaking her heart.

Chastity posted the exchange to Facebook, saying, "Today was my sign that everything is okay and I can let him [Lignons] rest!" Her post was then shared more than 288,000 times and picked up by several media outlets.

How Brad came to receive Chastity's messages is easily explained: When an individual surrenders a phone number, whether because of relocation, death or other reason, the company that supplied the phone service eventually reissues it to a new customer, sometimes as soon as 30 days after the number was discontinued.

*(continued)*

After Chastity's story went viral, she posted that she had shared the story to show friends and family "that there is a God and it might take four years, but he shows up right on time!"

While Chastity's story was splashed out by several media outlets, few of the major national news organizations reported the story at all, which suggests that by some standards, it didn't rise to the level of "news," and there was no "miracle" involved.

Miracle stories like the healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter and like Chastity's invite us to think about how God does work in our lives. Certainly God is not limited to interventions that cannot be explained by science or that go beyond the realm of reason. He can work through means we might label as coincidence or accident or serendipity or luck or natural processes or everyday happenings.

In both the miracle stories of Jesus and the natural occurrences that take on special meanings for us, we see the hand of God behind them. From the perspective of daily life, there's not much value in arguing over whether miracles occur or whether there are rational explanations for the events that bring us meaning, healing, hope or lift us up. If we experience God as being in them, we are in touch with the miraculous.

We encounter many serendipitous happenings in life for which there is no supernatural intervention overriding the laws of nature. But something occurs that is not ordinary, not usual and not what one would normally expect to happen. Perhaps God did not provide an exception to Newton's (or Einstein's) laws of motion, but he may well have moved people to interact in ways that provided what was needed by someone in a particular situation.

In the case of Chastity and Brad, the miracle may have been that God moved both of them toward the mutual support and benefit that occurred. Chastity and Brad were quick to see God's fingerprints in their exchange. Skeptics might disagree, but some things take the eyes of faith to discern.

If you look – even in these perilous times - you may find God's fingerprints all over the place.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese

## Prayer Vigil

August 1, 2020 from 10:00am to 3:00pm there will be an Open Church Prayer Vigil for the Corona-Virus and the Stressed Relations on our Black Community. There is no service. Just come as you please and pray with others on these issues and any other issues that are troubling you.

The more we pray together, the stronger our prayers are heard.

For questions please call Sue MacIsaac (813) 382-8790.

## 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) on the third floor of the Parish Building.*

## Youth News

A new school year is beginning and even though we have this covid stuff going on we still need to be ready to go in September should covid become a thing of the past. So I am looking for volunteers for Children's Chapel and Sunday school (again, only if covid is cleared up.) So please contact me if you would/are considering volunteering and let's talk about it.

We are trying to move into the digital age with the children and youth. We now have a facebook account: Victor Christianed. If you add me as a friend I can send you an invite to our two groups which are locked to non members. So please send me an invite and get ready for an adventure.

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



**From the Parish Register**

### Baptisms

Brenna Birch Hillson

### Transfers Out

Grant Hargrove  
to St. Helena's, TX

### Marriages

Christopher Fowler & Melissa Wong

## Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation

### *In Loving Memory of Brucie H. Johnston*

Rosemary McAteer

### *In Loving Memory of John M. Wolfe*

Patricia Gillen

Peter & Irene Baker

Staige & Patricia Hoffman

Preston & Laura Farrior

Keith & Diane Seibert

Yvonne Santiago

A.G. Divers

The Rief Family

Mary & Mike Dickinson

Murray-Bertron LLC

Ashley & Cynthia Pittman

Helen Straske

Richard & Hettie Elm

J. Thomas Touchton

Fran Kerr

Sonya Endicott

Tony Morrison &

Susanna Fenhagen

Eleanor Hubbard

Richard Ferlita &

James Carmichael

Isabelle Ferrell

L. Robin Pentz

James M. Moore

The Burton Family

Carole Fields

Betty Wood

### *Remember:*

#### *Gifts to*

*St. Andrew's Foundation are a  
lovely way to  
remember a birthday,  
anniversary or any  
special occasion!*

## **St. Andrew's Media Committee seeks interested volunteers**

Greetings St. Andrew's family! My name is Paul Scheuer and I am chairing a media committee to explore the future of live streaming and social media presence at our church. We are in the process of developing a more permanent camera and sound system and would like to gauge interest from volunteers who would be willing to assist in running the live stream during services and events. Training would be provided and some technical savvy would be required (i.e. basic computer skills). Please call or text me at 813-449-1686 if you are interested and would like to learn more.

## **Outreach News**

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

St. Andrew's is restarting our Homeless Lunch Program on Monday, August 10th. We need volunteers to help out. If you are so inclined to help, please email Sue MacIsaac at [suemmacisaac@gmail.com](mailto:suemmacisaac@gmail.com). Volunteers would need to be at the church by 9:30. We start serving at 10am and it goes very quickly. Usually done by 10:30. This is a Monday - Friday Program. If it is easier you can call or text Sue at 813-382-8790 with questions.

## **Join us for Virtual Coffee Hour**

After each Sunday morning service via Facebook Live, I invite you to join me, Betsy Scheuer, at 11:30 AM for Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom.

**I have set up a new Meeting ID, Passcode and Invitation link so please see the changes below.**

Betsy Heavey Scheuer is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St. Andrew's Virtual Coffee Hour

Meeting ID: 892 4756 0283

Passcode: 898653

Invitation link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89247560283?pwd=NHFeVRmZ0Foelp6LzkyZUxZNEpDdz09>

## **Hymn Videos**

During our safer at home directives, Ryan Hebert and Coleman Flengte have been creating a series of videos each week about different hymns from the Episcopal Hymnal, 1982. You can find these videos on the Saint Andrew's Facebook page or on YouTube.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtITBr8rjyGp9xw0\\_8YB\\_BllgK15RVUCF](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtITBr8rjyGp9xw0_8YB_BllgK15RVUCF)

Each week, Dr. Hebert gives some background information, and plays it as it appears in the hymnal, and does an organ setting of the hymn on the mighty Fisk.

If you have a favorite hymn that you'd like to learn about and have featured, email [music@saintandrewstampa.org](mailto:music@saintandrewstampa.org)

## In-Person Services at St. Andrew's

The Bishop has given permission for congregations to resume in-person services. He notes that “In person worship may be expanded to 25% of the Fire Department’s safe number certificate for the Sanctuary...The 25% continues the maintenance of 6 feet of physical distancing.” For St. Andrew’s, that means we can have up to 134 people at a single service.

With that in mind, we have resumed Sunday services at 8AM and 10:30AM and the Wednesday 12:10PM Holy Eucharist.

We have removed and stored all the hymnals and *Books of Common Prayer*. Each liturgy is printed in its entirety in the service leaflet.

Every other pew is roped off to ensure social distancing.

The wearing of face protectors (aka, masks) is highly recommended. This shows respect for others. If you don’t have one, you can pick one up as you enter church.

There will be no hand shaking or hugs. Hand sanitizer is available at the church entrances.

We will not pass the collection plates. The offering plates will be posted at the two church entrances. We shall continue to encourage online giving.

The Sunday 8AM service is the usual Rite One service. Only the bread will be distributed.

The Sunday 10:30AM service is Morning Prayer, Rite Two. This ensures limited contact between parishioners. Those of you of a certain age will remember when this was a regular Sunday service. Our choral ensemble consists of our paid staff members, stationed at a safe distance from the congregation. The congregation is asked NOT to sing during the service. (Humming is acceptable, though.)

Adult Education is offered at 9:30AM in the Library on the third floor.

There will be NO Nursery care and NO Children’s Chapel on Sunday mornings.

There will be NO fellowship hour after the services. Restrooms on the first floor, however, will be available for use.

We will continue livestreaming the 10:30 service. Thus, if you do not yet feel comfortable enough to join us in person, you can still stay connected by watching the Sunday service on St. Andrew’s Facebook page or via YouTube.

# June Vestry Meeting Highlights

## RECTOR'S REPORT – Fr. Reese

As of 6/8/20, there was \$209,715 in ops account and \$90,514 in the parish reserve account and \$32,788 in the PPP account (which started with \$67,230).

As of 6/8/20, there was \$27,733 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry. (Of that amount, \$8,631 is designated to pay for the painting of the church interior this month.) Foundation recently transferred \$13,324 from the principal to the checking account. This was the final portion of the 2016 spending allocation.

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.

We have another \$72,918 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2020 at their meeting on 2/4/20.

And there was \$2,464,404 in the Foundation principal as of 5/12/20, as opposed to \$2,785,795 as of 12/31/19, a decrease of \$321,391 for the year to date.

There is also \$104,012 (or was) in the Dan Curtis fund fbo St. Andrew's within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, with \$8,616 in grant money available for 2019 & 2020. This fund is designated for church maintenance purposes.

Sesquicentennial Celebration – St. Andrew's turns 150 in 2021. Ryan is willing to kick things off in the fall with an organ recital. We would like to have Choral Evensong on All Saints' Day, Sunday, 11/1 – depending on the extent of the plague, of course.

Parish & Foundation Audits – Gray is chairing parish audit (with help from Lynn and Richard Chapman). Richard Ferlita has completed the Foundation audit (with help from James Carmichael).

Virtual Church – will continue after we return to in-person worship on 6/14. We will continue to broadcast the 10:30 service live on Facebook each Sunday. Ryan and Coleman have done an outstanding job with both the Sunday services and the weekly organ episodes. And Betsy Scheuer has organized a weekly virtual coffee hour after the Sunday service. These things are all virtually good.

In-Person Church – resumes on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Services are at the usual times of 8AM (Holy Eucharist, Rite One) and 10:30AM (Morning Prayer, Rite Two). There will be Adult Christian Education at 9:30AM in the third floor library. There will be no nursery, children's Sunday School, Children's Chapel, or coffee hour.

Ushers Meeting – The ushers will zoom in on Friday, 6/12 at 5PM. This gathering will focus on how ushers will handle the new normal with the congregation on Sunday mornings, ie, hand sanitizer, face protectors, social distancing, offering plates, etc.

Church Interior Painting – has just been completed. All looks good. The unsightly wall stains are gone. Now we pray that they don't re-appear....

(continued)

## June 2020 Operating Summary

|                 | <u>MTD Actual</u> | <u>MTD Budgeted</u> | <u>YTD Actual</u> | <u>YTD Budgeted</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Revenues</b> | \$63,080          | \$48,385            | \$289,469         | \$290,312           |
| <b>Expenses</b> | \$37,762          | \$48,385            | \$267,277         | \$290,312           |
| <b>Net</b>      | \$25,318          | \$0                 | \$22,191          | \$0                 |

Church audio visual project update – The ad hoc committee has two proposals in hand (Layton and Donovan) and needs to meet and formulate a recommendation to the vestry. As a second component of this project, Richard Ferlita and Pam Frost are researching options to upgrade the internet and phone connections in both the church and parish building. Richard has one proposal in hand (PBX-Change) and is awaiting another (from Alta Vista).

Victor Van Pelt – is recovering from his triple bypass surgery. He has been cleared medically to return to work. Please keep him in your prayers.

Memorial Service – The funeral for Deacon John Wolfe was at St. Andrew's on 5/12. John was interred in the St. Andrew's Columbarium. *Please keep Pat in your prayers.*

Lumina Choirs – cancelled for rest of spring season. Have not heard from them about any possible contract renewal for next season.

Diocesan Convention Going Virtual – Bishop Smith has announced that the Convention on 10/17 will be a virtual one.

Next virtual vestry meeting will be **Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p.m.**

**SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Gray Sanders** None

**JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy**

George reported that the four posts on the Marion Street courtyard gate are rusted through. He presented the repair plan and estimate of \$2,100 to the Executive Committee, with monies to come from the Reserve Fund. Executive Committee was in full agreement to proceed. He reported that any repairs to the Rectory roof will be on hold for now while George slowly investigates replacement of the roof. He feels it is not urgent and that the time is better served by investigating estimates. The marble shelf addition (to hold the candelabras) at the altar has been completed. George is addressing the roof leaks in the northwest corner of church, along with some minor plumbing issues.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Piers Curry**

St. Andrew's remains on strong footing.

PPP funding was received and placed in a separate account for fund transfer to create an isolation of federal dollars from our normal church operating funds. Pam Frost has been tracking everything and keeping very accurate books so our accounting will be easy when the time comes to seek substantial loan forgiveness from the Small Business Administration. St. Andrew's has been granted \$67,230.00, with \$50,423.00 to be used in order to qualify for the grant.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **OUTREACH:**

Sue reported that members are continuing to help with the First Presbyterian homeless daily outreach. She reported they are in need of men's clothing, and would accept them at the church and deliver them to First Presbyterian.

**WELCOMING:** Jennifer R. coordinated providing large toiletry kits to First Presbyterian for the outreach program.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Peter provided an update from the Media Committee for the A/V upgrade for the church. Various discussions regarding clarification on the vendor and details of the proposal took place. Peter stated that the committee will meet again this week, and report back to the Vestry.

Peter made a motion to accept Layton as the vendor, and accept their proposal of \$15,000 with some fine tuning on the details, to be funded by the Foundation. The motion was seconded by Jennifer. The motion passed unanimously.

A second motion was put forth by Peter for the Vestry to allow the Committee to spend \$8,000 immediately to begin the work. The motion was again seconded by Jennifer, and passed unanimously.

Anita stated that she had received some calls with concerns from the 8:00 am attendees because of the increase in cases, and how the church was addressing them. Father Reese replied that all CDC guidelines are being followed, and we are doing services as safely as possible.

Next vestry meeting will be Monday, July 20th at 5:30 pm.



## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



### **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**

The Rev. John Reese, Rector

#### **Sunday Services**

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Christian Education  
for adults

#### **Church Location:**

Marion & Madison Streets

Mailing Address:

509 E. Twiggs St.

Tampa, FL 33602

Phone: (813) 221-2035

Fax: 224-0945

Web: [saintandrewstampa.org](http://saintandrewstampa.org)

E-mail: [secretary@](mailto:secretary@saintandrewstampa.org)

[saintandrewstampa.org](http://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.