



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ October 2020

Reverently Speaking

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:1-5

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

If you grew up in the church, you probably had some really great Sunday school teachers who helped you on the path toward ministry — people who, week after week, gave up their time and sanity to lock themselves in a room with some socially inept yet theologically inquisitive young minds. Pastor Bob Kaylor notes that his best Sunday school memories are from the fifth grade and Mrs. M's class. One day the class was "discussing" the topic of heaven. Kaylor asked Mrs. M, "What do you think heaven will be like?" Her reading glasses flew off so quickly that they rattled the chain around her neck. She looked at Kaylor, smiled, and said, "Oh, well, heaven is going to be a lot like church ... only going on forever."

Now, that answer might not exactly sound heavenly to the ears of fifth-graders. Singing hymns with undecipherable words like "diadem" and "Ebenezer," listening to lengthy Scriptural passages about people named Methuselah and Nebuchadnezzar, enduring endless sermons that contained no references to apps, video games, or blowing up G.I. Joes with firecrackers — harkens to that place opposite from heaven. That hour on Sunday morning is already an eternity in itself for youngsters. A kid couldn't imagine spending forever constantly elbowed by a mom warning not to fidget and to sit up straight.

It's interesting to look at all the ways that people view heaven. Mrs. M's view, it turns out, was just one of many. Talk about heaven in this culture and you're likely to get a bunch of different views that run the gamut from the rapturous visions of the Left Behinders to the self-indulgent New Age fantasies of the pop-culture gurus that seem to always have a book that's recommended by Oprah. Regardless of the origin, the overarching view is that the goal of life is to someday be sucked up by some heavenly Hoover into the great beyond to live a life of eternal bliss.

But that worldview (or heaven-view) is really more Gnosticism than New Testament ... more Plato than Paul. When Jesus talked about the kingdom of heaven, he wasn't referring to a cloud-based location but to an earth-based movement, the one we pray for every time we murmur the Lord's Prayer. The biblical worldview is not about the dualism of body and spirit, but their unity. The goal is not to make it to a disembodied afterlife, but to live an embodied and renewed resurrection life, making God's will "on earth as in heaven" a reality in the present while awaiting its completion in the future when Jesus takes over for good. A proper vision of heaven is really a world in which God reigns and God's people live the abundant life we were created for in the first place. To put it another way, our task is not to get people into heaven, but to get heaven into people.

(continued)

One of the books that has guided me in this area is Bishop N.T. Wright's *Surprised by Hope*, which is all about this thoroughly biblical and immensely insightful vision of heaven on earth. It'll never make Oprah's book club, but then again stuff that is both practical and biblical rarely does.

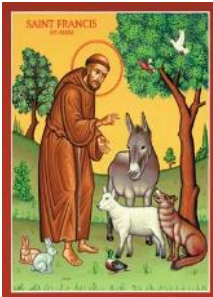
But one good thing to know is that the kingdom of heaven isn't an eternal church service, but a movement worth giving our lives for.

Firecrackers may or may not be included.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese



BLESSING OF THE PETS

Saturday, October 3, 10:00am
in the church courtyard



Helping Hands Looking for More Hands

Our Helping Hands Community is looking for more members. During the initial segment of our COVID 19 pandemic our Helping Hands were postured and ready to provide support to members of the parish as needed and as appropriate. With our church slowly returning to normalcy, Helping Hands wants to be ready to be able to provide a variety of support to our church community. To do that well, they are looking for generous, hard working, kind, and compassionate ladies to join their ranks. If you are interested in being a member of the Helping Hands Community, please contact Lynn Dorman via email (lynnd1125@gmail.com) or phone (404-293-0395) or grab her after church.

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

How do we walk with Christ—daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? In the Gospels, Jesus modeled for us the Christian spiritual life. The apostles taught it in their writings. And the Church has, through the last 2,000 years, sought to pursue this Christian spiritual life.

The Walk focuses on five essential spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is part of our daily walk with Christ and an essential part of growing together in the church. Deepen your walk with Christ as we explore the five essential practices of worship, study, serving, giving, and sharing our faith.

This six-session DVD series is led by Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

10/4 – Share: Going Fishing, Reflecting Light

10/11 – The Five Practices from the Cross

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

Sunday mornings at 9:30

Explore the most popular sermon ever delivered!

The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus' most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings have meant to his disciples and to the others who first heard them? How do they enhance our reading of the rest of the Gospel of Matthew, and how do they speak across the centuries to listeners today? How, if we pay careful attention to his words, does Jesus provide us a road map to living as God would have us live?

*In the six-session DVD series **Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven**, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today. Dr. Levine is professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School.*

Here is the line-up:

10/18 - The Beatitudes

10/25 - The Extensions

11/1 - Practicing Piety

11/8 - Our Father

11/15 - Finding Your Treasure

11/22 - Living into the Kingdom

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

Youth News

This week we will start up youth Sunday school online via Zoom. You will need a link to it, so contact me to get on the list. Sunday school will run from its normal scheduled time of 9:30 to 10:15. Hope to see all the youth there.

We had our first zoom class on the P.R.A.Y. curriculum this week and it was wonderful seeing so many faces together again, albeit online. Please contact me, Victor Van Pelt, at: cell 813-898-3415 or email at christianed@saintandrewstampa.org with any questions.

2020 Gabriel Tree Project

Despite the 2020 challenges, the Outreach Committee is committed to the Gabriel Tree Project, where parishioners provide gifts and clothing for children at two local schools. The process this year, however, will be different.

Those wishing to donate can do so in one of three ways:

- A. Select a child's name, purchase and wrap the gifts, and drop them off at the Parish Hall by Sunday December 6th or any time earlier.
- B. Select a child's name and make your donation to St Andrew's, noting the child you selected and how much to spend. The Parish Elf will shop, wrap and deliver your gifts to the church, and you will receive a thank you note with a photo of the items purchased with your donation.
- C. Send a donation for the program to the Church and the Parish Elf will select a child and shop/wrap for you. Again, you will be notified of the child's name and gifts purchased.

We are starting earlier this year. In the coming weeks, Parish communications will include a list of children's names, sizes and wish gifts. We have reduced the number of children covered, but if the response is strong then we can and will add more names to the list.

Thank you for supporting this wonderful program. There will not be a party this year for the children, so these gifts will warm their hearts and lift their spirits.

Outreach News

As we wind up our first four weeks of restarting the Homeless Lunch Program we'd like to say, "It's going great"! We serve more than 100 lunches each weekday. We get the brown bag lunches from Metropolitan Ministries every morning which consists of a sandwich, piece of fruit and a bag of chips. We then repack them in a plastic grocery bag with a bottle of water furnished by the county and a snack such as a pack of crackers or a pudding cup we keep on hand through the generous donations of St. Andrew's parishioners. Volunteers come to St. Andrew's at 9:15 A.M. and we are done by 10:30. A team of four or five is perfect. So far volunteers have included: Anne Baldy, Bill and Maren Bessalieu, Tony Morrison and Susanna Fenhagen, Lisa Gari, Loueita Hargens, MaryBeth Harris, Kathy Lawless, Sue MacIsaac, Anne Paige, Fr. Jerry Stadel, Paula Stewart and Tania Wilkes but we are always on the lookout for more folks to help with this program. If you'd like to volunteer please see or call Sue MacIsaac at 813-382-8790 or Loueita Hargens at 813-760-9052. And of course, donations to the Homeless Lunch Program are always welcome.

Bishop's Worship Guidelines

Thursday, September 24, 2020

My dear friends,

I write this to all of the clergy of the Diocese of Southwest Florida. After conversation with the Rectors, Priests in Charge, and Vicars on September 22, I am providing these updated Pandemic guidelines.

FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP:

- Worship attendance for in person gatherings may be expanded to 50 percent of the Fire Department's safe number certificate for the Sanctuary. This is not a requirement. The building may preclude safe physical distancing at this rate. The 25 to 50 percent rate is for safe physical distancing. The decision is up to the Rector, Priest in Charge, or the Vicar. It may be better to simply add another service. Please be reminded that outdoor worshipping with safe distancing and masking provides even more space.
- I think it is safe to bring out of storage hymnals, BCPs, and other worship books as the virus seems to spread more from aerosolized particles than touching surfaces. Having said that, the decision is up to the Rector, Priest in Charge, or the Vicar. Plentiful handwashing is, of course, expected.

PLEASE CONTINUE:

- Create carefully designed worship traffic patterns from the gathering through the dismissal to help worshippers avoid personal contact.
- MASKS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- No handshaking or hugs. Monastic reverent bows to one another remain elegant gestures of solemnity.
- Continue the practice of not passing the collection plates. Provide specific places where offerings may be made. Continue to encourage methods of online giving.
- Morning Prayer is still a recommended "no touch" service. Offer it with holiness and beauty. Train well your Officiants and Lectors.
- FOR HOLY COMMUNION: Be mindful of this guidance. *Only the presiding priest or bishop should receive from the cup.* All other communicants will receive the blessed bread while standing. Remember hand sanitization is to be stressed before the administration of communion.

Be very careful of congregational singing as the aerosol particles travel farther when singing. NO SINGING CLOSE TO ANYONE ELSE. Humming or just listening are fine methods of participation.

FOR CONFIRMATION SERVICES:

- Please call the Diocesan office to request a date. I will have specific guidelines to offer as a date is chosen.

Thank you for your attention to these guidelines to care for your people and yourselves. I remain thankful for your loving service. I continue to pray for you as you continue to pray for me. Please remember that these guidelines may change at any time as the Pandemic realities change. Finally, please continue to live stream your services. That is important for your members who are not able to attend due to a variety of health or other reasons. It is also important for visitors searching for a Church home. Beautiful, thoughtful worship is healthy evangelism!

Faithfully yours,

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith
Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida

August Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT – Fr. Reese

As of 7/13/20, there was \$228,254 in ops account and \$88,414 in the parish reserve account and \$6,807 in the PPP account (which started with \$67,230).

As of 7/14/20, there was \$26,129 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry. (We recently paid out \$8,631 for the painting of the church interior.) This month, Foundation transferred \$20,000 from the principal to the checking account, which is a portion of the 2017 spending allocation.

Via an email vote on 6/30/20, vestry approved the new audio visual project for the church, along with a phone/internet upgrade for offices, parish building, and church. Foundation made initial payments of \$2,403.68 to PBX-Change, \$1,122.60 to ACCI, and \$7,589.95 to Layton A/V Audio Visual Solutions.

We have another \$33,473 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. (As noted above, \$20,000 has already been transferred to the Foundation checking account from the 2017 allocation, which totaled \$53,473).

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 \$2,598,360 in the Foundation principal as of 6/30/20, as opposed to \$2,785,795 as of 12/31/19, a decrease of \$187,435 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. We are in the process of paying out \$5,500 from this fund to repair the northwest corner of the church roof. (The repair was recently completed.)

Sesquicentennial Celebration – St. Andrew's turns 150 in 2021. With the recent spike in Covid, we are unable to make any definitive plans for the rest of the calendar year.

Parish & Foundation Audits – are complete. Pam will email you a copy and we need to approve the audits at the vestry meeting. Thanks to Gray, Lynn, and Richard Chapman (parish audit) and Richard Ferlita and James Carmichael (Foundation audit).

Sue made a motion to accept the Parish Audit, with a second from Jim.

Jim made a motion to accept the Foundation Audit with a second from Ben.

Both motions passed unanimously.

Virtual Church – continues. We are soliciting parish volunteers to become part of a broadcast ministry team that will man (and woman) the new video system that will be installed in the

August 2020 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$30,859	\$48,385	\$363,995	\$387,083
Expenses	\$44,217	\$48,385	\$364,197	\$387.083
Net	(\$13,357)	\$0	(\$202.03)	\$0

autumn. Willing to channel that inner Steven Spielberg? Then sign up to operate the three new cameras that are coming to St. Andrew's!

In-Person Church – resumed on Sunday, June 14th. Services are at the usual times of 8AM (Holy Eucharist, Rite One) and 10:30AM (Morning Prayer, Rite Two). Hopefully, the 10:30 service can revert back to the usual Holy Eucharist come September. In-person attendance has been 50-60 combined at the two services each Sunday. Our normal summer in-person attendance averages about 150.

There is Adult Christian Education at 9:30AM in the third floor library. There is no nursery, children's Sunday School, Children's Chapel, or coffee hour.

Church audio visual project update – Via an email vote on 6/30/20, vestry approved the new audio visual project for the church, along with a phone/internet upgrade for offices, parish building, and church. We will need to confirm this (for the record) at the vestry meeting. Total payments will be \$4,807.35 to PBX-Change, \$2,245.20 to ACCI, and \$15,179.91 to Layton A/V Audio Visual Solutions, all to be paid from Foundation funds. Project should be completed in September or October (there is a 6-8 week wait for the cameras that we are ordering). In the meantime, we shall continue to broadcast with a phone on a stick.

The new, recurring, monthly phone/internet bill with PBX-Change will be \$724.35, as opposed to our current \$600 per month with Proximiti. Thus, there will be an annual increase of about \$1,500 for phone/internet services.

Heissler Invoice – We need to approve that the Foundation pays \$500 to Heissler for organ tuning (\$350) and a Shim SW/GT coupler (\$150). Our custom has been to pay for any organ maintenance/repair from Foundation funds.

Peter made a motion to approve the above repairs/maintenance, with a second from Don-reece. It was passed unanimously.

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

Vacation Bible School – cancelled, as are all Diocesan summer camps.

Virtual Deanery Convocation – is on Wednesday, 9/2, at 7PM. This is the prep meeting before convention, where the diocese unveils the budget and takes questions on budget, resolutions, nominations, etc.

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

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Gray Sanders

Gray spoke to the completion of the Audits. He proposed forming a committee to complete a church inventory which has been a pending item on previous audits. All were in agreement.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy

George reported that all pending repairs have been completed including the Marion Street courtyard gate, and roof repairs.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Piers Curry

St. Andrew's remains on strong footing, with a low deficit. We stand at a surplus for the year, made better by the PPP monies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OUTREACH:

Sue reported that First Presbyterian's daily feeding of the homeless has once again come back to St. Andrew's. 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. will continue to coordinate gathering needed items for the homeless outreach.

OLD BUSINESS: The audio/video upgrade work is on track, however, the cameras are back-ordered with a possible ship date in September. Work on the booth and mounting shelves will go forward.

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.

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.