



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Parish Chimes

An Ancient Faith for a Modern World

MARCH 2025

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Back in 2011, I heard a memorable sermon by the Rt. Rev. Duncan Gray, III, who was serving as Bishop of Mississippi, a diocese which covers the entire state. In the sermon he made a



statement that encapsulated the challenge of the church in our times, "There is a spiritual hunger in this country that is unprecedented, even as the institutional church is seen as a non-option for growing numbers of spiritually hungry young adults. Old models of being the church are increasingly ineffective in being the bearers of the Gospel to this hungry and despairing world." The only thing that has changed between the time I heard Bishop Gray preach this sermon and now is that it is only truer today. I heard someone else sum things up when he said, "I love Jesus. I just wish he wouldn't bring his leprous bride every place he goes."

We live in an age where we are suspicious of institutions. We are acutely aware of scandals that have eroded trust in government, media, and even sports. This feeling extends to the institutional church. We are long gone from the days when then-Presidenting Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill appeared on the cover of the March 26, 1951 cover of Time magazine leading a Protestant America like Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt.

We Episcopalians built a large institution in the 20th Century. In the 1890s, the Episcopal Church constructed a headquarters in the Gramercy Park neighborhood in New York. We underwent a major reorganization in 1919 that gave us much of the structure we know today. In 1963, the headquarters moved to an office tower in Midtown Manhattan, located be-

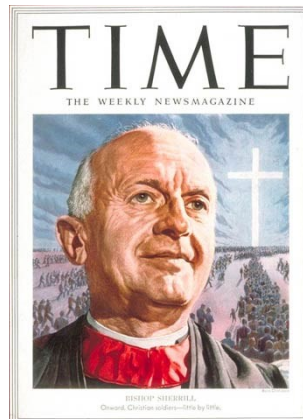
tween Grand Central Terminal and the United Nations. The church replicated the mid-century patterns one might see in an organization like General Motors. It served us well. It was the incubator that helped birth St. Andrew's as a new church start with 7 buildings on almost 7 acres of land.

The problem is the world has moved onward. Our current Presiding Bishop, Sean Rowe, has noted that the economic boom of the 1990s kept us blind to the changes which were afoot in society. Meanwhile, we continued to operate in the same way. It was only with the Great Recession at the end of the first decade of the 2000s that we started to take the change seriously, even if our response was halting and often filled with denial.

We have moved from an age of the GM Mark of Excellence to an age of moving fast and breaking things. This is not something we do well as Episcopalians. Our institutional structures may no longer serve us well, but they have shaped our worldview. It is like trying to explain to a fish that it is wet.

While the "move fast and break things" metaphor is one that comes from the tech industry, there are ways this is happening in the wider church beyond our own tradition. I consider myself blessed to be an Episcopalian, but there are things we can learn from our brothers and sisters in Christ in nondenominational circles. I am not suggesting that every Episcopal parish needs a worship band and a fancy lighting system. What makes many of these more recent church starts successful is that they are unburned by history and inflexible institutional norms. They can adapt far more easily than we can.

There are pieces of our institutional legacy that are very important! I think we need to lift up the core parts of who we are, to focus on the basics like inten-



tional liturgy, sound formation, generous outreach, and excellent fellowship. These things will not be done the way we did them in decades past. We need to keep the essentials while discarding those things which have outlived their purpose. We still need institutions, but the institution needs to meet the current mission.

In some ways, I am more hopeful about the future of the Episcopal Church than I have been at any point since I was ordained to the priesthood in 2008. I must admit there have been times that I thought I was the manager of a local Kmart or Blockbuster Video. As I told a friend from my college days who lives in very unchurched Seattle, I am excited because I think the church is finally beginning to have the conversations we should have started 20 years ago. I see it in the leadership of our new Presiding Bishop on a church-wide level and closer to home in the leadership Bishop Scharf is giving in our diocese. I am realizing that this is also part of my call as your relatively new rector at St. Andrew's. At all levels of the church, we are figuring out how to adapt our structure to meet our mission.

This is not to say that the conversations and adjustments which unfold will be easy. As leadership expert Ronald Heifetz wrote, "People do not resist change but fear loss." I am reminded that Jesus gave us the brief parable about how a grain of wheat must die to bear fruit. The future will, indeed, look different.

As we seek to adapt, mistakes will be made and failure will happen.

(At St. Andrew's, I will be responsible for many of them!) The challenge before us to meet the current moment with grace, while continuing to be guided by the values we proclaim as disciples of Jesus who called us to proclaim the Good News.

With thanksgiving for your partnership in the Gospel,

Matthew+

Senior Warden

Kathy Ludwell

When Fr. Matthew asked me to consider the position of senior warden, I immediately thought, "Oh, boy, I am no Craig Gates!" I want to acknowledge and thank Craig and his "right-hand" wife, Glee, for the tremendous responsibilities that they managed in order to keep St. Andrew's Church functioning smoothly during our long transition period. That we were able to continue with our three services using supply priests was not an easy task. Our vestry members agreed that when Craig asked us to do something, the response would always be YES. The bonus was that Craig unfailingly handled issues and responsibilities professionally and in the spirit of Christ. Can't thank you enough, Craig.

We have a vibrant, generous, and caring church community. We have a vestry dedicated to maintaining our mission to serve Christ through our church ministries. We are so very fortunate to have our own full-time rector to continue to guide us spiritually and secularly through our endeavors. Thank you, Fr. Matthew, for accepting our call.

I would like us to pray. Our Lord and Savior, please guide us to make wise decisions and to work harmoniously to serve You through our church services and church activities. Help us to be supportive and understanding regarding changes deemed necessary to sustain our church. We thank You for all of Your blessings and for always listening. In Jesus' name.

Altar Guild

Patti Werner, Co-director

On March 5th we will celebrate Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The Altar color will be purple for the super frontal and the hanging on the lectern. The long Altar skirt is removed during Lent and there are no flowers behind the Altar. These changes are made by the Altar Guild on Saturday, March 3rd. The color purple is symbolic of penitence and expectation. Many parishioners give up something for Lent that they usually enjoy. The most popular choice is chocolate or some other sweets. Some folks take on something new in the line of service to a ministry at St. Andrew's. Our dear friend in heaven, Audrey Collins, a long time Altar Guild member, told me that during Lent she would send hand written greeting cards to people in our church directory, whether she knew them or not. She got many thankful replies. Great idea!

Looking ahead to April and the approach of Palm Sunday, mark your calendars for Saturday, April 12th at 9:30AM in Krysher Hall to join the congregation in the stripping of palms and the making of palm crosses. This is a wonderful fellowship time and, yes, there will

in instructions for the crosses. You will be very proud of your results.

All men and women are invited to join our Altar Guild.

Pastoral Care

Janet Crisfield

We are already to greet Spring (I hope!) I often feel I do my penances during the cold weather. This month we start our Lenten season. First with Ash Wednesday and then begins the challenge of what to do or not do for Lent. Most of us growing up we encouraged to “give up “ something be it candy or chocolate, etc. Still not a bad exercise for anyone.

We can also use this time to more conscientiously open our hearts to God’s grace through prayer, confession, fasting, almsgiving and so on. During this time we can continue to ask for God’s guidance and courage to follow our resolutions . Remember we focused not so long ago during Advent and the Christmas season, that God sent Jesus to be with us and walk with us when we become faint of heart about many things. In the case of Lent whatever spiritual exercise we chose.

The Pastoral Care Team is available to make visits to those of you that are in the hospital, long term care or homebound. If you a family member or friend are in any of these circumstances please call the church office at 352-683-2010 and let us know. Facilities cannot share patient information if we call.

In addition please reach out to parishioners you know are in need of prayer .Your kindness and prayers are always appreciated and pleasing to the Lord.



St. Andrew’s is hosting a
**Bunco fundraiser on
Sunday, March 30, at 12:30.**

Half of the ticket price is designated for our church; the other half becomes prize money (most wins, most losses, most buncos, and last bunco). Join us even if you have never played; it’s easy to learn!! Every table will have at least one person who knows the game.

Enjoy a lunch of grilled hot dogs, chips, and a drink for \$5.

Each ticket costs \$20.

Contact Kathy Ludwell at 352-428-4122.

Really, it will be lot of fun!



It's back! This year's Daughter of the King Lenten Project will benefit the Dawn Center. We will be collecting underwear for boys, girls, men, and women. Toiletries and cash donations will also be gratefully accepted. Please bring in your donated items the weekends of March 15-16 and March 22-23. Thank you so much for supporting our project and the Dawn Center! Thanks much! Jeri Mikosz

Our Lenten observance will
begin with the
Proper Liturgy for
Ash Wednesday, March 5,
at 10 A.M. and 6 P.M.



Lenten Practices

For nearly two thousand years the 40-day season of Lent has been used by God's people to remember the events of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Christians throughout the ages have chosen to take on disciplines to keep them centered on God all the way to Easter. We encourage you to take on these daily spiritual practices as well, which can help protect from distraction and increase our ability to hear from God. May we all be transformed as we participate in these exercises of grace.

Monday: Make no purchases Most of us can buy things whenever we need them. Take a day to fast purchases. Examples: Make your lunch instead of buying it. Plan to fill your tank of gas on another day. Avoid the vending machine. As you do, pray for those who go without.

Tuesday: Make a personal contact Our lives can be so busy. Many of us are in such a rush that we don't have time for relationships. Examples: Write and send a hand-written note. Make a phone call to an old friend. Have people over for a meal. As you do, encourage them in the Lord or thank them for their influence in your life.

Wednesday: Fast noise For many of us, we are constantly barraged with noise from our T.V. radio, or iPod. Our lives are also bombarded with distractions through social media and advertisement. Embrace silence so that God's voice may be loud in

your life. Examples: Turn off your car radio. Take a break from social media. Keep the television off today. As you do, sing a worship song, or speak out your prayers, and listen for God's still small voice.

Thursday: Add an extra hour of sleep We are designed to need sleep. Rest is one of the greatest gifts God gives us. Some of us are exhausted from burning the candle at both ends. Be thankful for God's goodness by going to bed an hour early. If you can't sleep, lie in bed and read the scriptures or pray for the needs of others.

Friday: Fast a food of your choice It is easy to become addicted to sweets, caffeine, and constant eating. Recognize your dependence on God, and be thankful for the things you enjoy by choosing to fast a meal or a food of choice. As you do, focus on your dependence on God for your most basic needs.

Saturday: Add an hour of physical activity When we take care of our bodies we take care of the temple of the Holy Spirit. Examples: Go for a walk. Visit the Family Life Center. Swim a few laps at the YMCA. As you do, pray for those who are suffering from disease or sickness, and thank God for the gift of life and the health you have.

Sunday: Celebrate in worship! Participate with the community in the 8:00 or 10:30 worship service.



Women's Bible Study
will not meet on
March 6 and 13.

It will resume on March 20
with a new study topic.



TREASURER'S REPORT

as of January 30, 2025

Connie Mehr, Treasurer

	This Month	Year to Date	2024 Budget
Revenues			
Core Church	28,037.00	28,037.00	288,545.00
Thrift Shop	3,923.00	3,923.00	40,100.00
Total Revenues	31,960.00	31,960.00	328,645.00
Expenses			
Core Church	27,615.24	27,615.24	401,278.00
Thrift Shop	770.20	770.20	22,426.00
Total Expenses	28,385.44	28,385.44	423,704.00
Net Gain/Loss			
Core Church	421.76	421.76	(112,733.00)
Thrift Shop	3,152.80	3,152.80	17,674.00
Total	3,574.56	3,574.56	(95,059.00)
Investments			
SSGA	121,271.69	Bank Accounts	
Alliance Bernstein	38,317.83	Bank of America	
		Unrestricted	87,345.10
		Restricted	313,124.85
		Truist	
		Unrestricted	105,646.14
Total	159,589.52	Total	506,116.09




DO SOMETHING AMAZING
GIVE BLOOD

SUNDAY March 23
7:30 a.m.
at St. Andrew's



**PRAY FOR
OUR TROOPS!**

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES AT HOME & OVERSEAS, AND THEIR FAMILIES:

- Julian Barry
- Bradley Meissner
- Michael Perry, USMC
- Brigadier General Karen Monday-Gresham

Please call the office with updates to this list.

Ladies Luncheon

It was a fun time and enjoyed by all.
We hope to have another one during the summer.
Thank you all for attending!



2301 Deltona Blvd.
Spring Hill, FL 34606
Phone: 352-683-2010
E-mail:
schurch22@tampabay.rr.com
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 5026
Spring Hill, FL 34611

Sunday Services
8 am Service (no music)
10:30 am Service (music)
Saturday Services
4 pm Service

Parish Office Hours
Mon, Tues, and Thurs.
9 am – 12 pm
(Closed Friday)

Diocese Website
www.episcopalswfl.org

The Parish Chimes Editor
Lisa Collier
Email:
schurch22@tampabay.rr.com



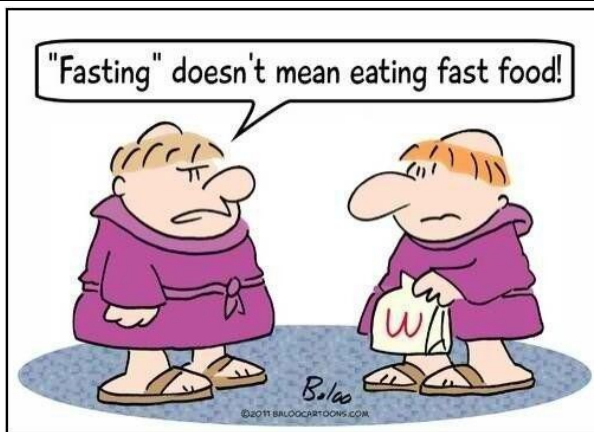
BIRTHDAYS

- 03/07 George Cotter
- 03/10 Mark Traudt
- 03/12 Marion McClelland
- 03/12 Caroline Meissner
- 03/17 Clifford Dubiel
- 03/19 David E. Ward
- 03/21 Charles DeCosa
- 03/24 Lillian Lambert-Mulholland
- 03/27 Susan Villnow
- 03/30 Deborah Fox
- 03/30 Ronald Grant
- 03/30 Margaret Hanel
- 03/30 Philip Seminerio
- 03/31 Tiberio Cevallos
- 03/31 Gail Niedurny

ANNIVERSARIES

None

FEBRUARY 2025 ATTENDANCE							
Week Ending Sat./Sun	Wed	Sat	Sat ONLINE	Sun 8 am	Sun 10:30 am	Sun ONLINE	Total
1/2	4	40	42	29	57	46	218
8/9	6	45	24	35	69	24	203
15/16	8	55	17	28	63	34	205
22/23	8	42	13	28	66	44	201
TOTAL	26	182	96	120	255	148	
AVERAGE	7	46	24	30	64	37	



MARCH LECTONARY

Last Sunday after Epiphany
 Exodus 34:29-35
 Psalm 99
 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
 Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]

Lent 1
 Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
 Romans 10:8b-13
 Luke 4:1-13

Lent 2
 Genesis 15:1-12,17-18
 Psalm 27
 Philippians 3:17-4:1
 Luke 13:31-35

Lent 3
 Exodus 3:1-15
 Psalm 63:1-8
 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Luke 13:1-9

Lent 4
 Joshua 5:9-12
 Psalm 32
 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

FEBRUARY 2025

Transfers in: 1
 Cindy England
 Weddings: 0
 Transfers out: 1
 Jackie McCabe
 Baptisms: 0
 Anointing: 38
 Deaths: 1
 Frederick (Phil) Clohset 02/04/25
 Funerals: 1
 Frederick (Phil) Clohset 02/11/25

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 8 am Holy Eucharist II 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II	3 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open	4 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open 5:30 Chili Cook Off	5 10 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service 6 P.M. Ash Wednesday Service 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open OFFICE CLOSED	6 NO Women's Bible Study 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open 6 pm Sanctuary Choir	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 10am - 2pm Thrift Shop 10 am Daughters of the King Meeting 1:30 pm (Sanctuary Choir) 3 pm Easter Choir 4 pm Holy Eucharist II
9 8 am Holy Eucharist II 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II	10 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open	11 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open	12 10 am Healing Service 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open OFFICE CLOSED	13 NO Women's Bible Study 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open	14 OFFICE CLOSED 9 am Men's Group Meeting (Chapel)	15 10am - 2pm Thrift Shop 1:30 pm (Sanctuary Choir) 3 pm Easter Choir 4 pm Holy Eucharist II
16 8 am Holy Eucharist II 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II UNDIE SUNDAY	17 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open	18 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open	19 10 am Healing Service 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open OFFICE CLOSED	20 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 10am - 2pm Thrift Shop 1:30 pm (Sanctuary Choir) 3 pm Easter Choir 4 pm Holy Eucharist II
23 7:30 a.m. Blood Drive 8 am Holy Eucharist II 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II UNDIE SUNDAY	24 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open	25 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open	26 10 am Healing Service 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open OFFICE CLOSED	27 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop	28 OFFICE CLOSED 9 am Men's Group Meeting (Chapel)	29 10am - 2pm Thrift Shop 1:30 pm (Sanctuary Choir) 3 pm Easter Choir 4 pm Holy Eucharist II
30 8 am Holy Eucharist II 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II 12:30 p.m. BUNCO	31 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open					