

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Parish Chimes



An Ancient Faith for a Modern World

February 2021



From the Rector

Dear Friends,

We begin this month with the hope that as a nation and the world we are beginning to turn the corner on this Covid virus. Hopefully as more people get the vaccine we will be able to move closer to returning to normalcy. But even with the vaccine, the return to normalcy seems to be some months away. The vestry will be discussing the reopening of our different ministries this month at our vestry retreat. Despite the fact that the ministries are not operating as they used to we can still be a church that honors our Lord Jesus. We can still pray for each other. We can still reach out, contact others and show concern for each other.

God is so good to us here at St. Andrew's. Our roofing project is now complete. We have our new carillon system installed and working. The renovation of the Memorial Garden is practically complete.

This month we conclude the season of Epiphany and begin the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday will be on February 17th. We will have two services as usual, one at 10 am and one at 6 pm. The time of the services will remain the same however the bishop sent out a directive on January 20th telling us that we are not to impose ashes this year. He gave us this directive out of the concern that the imposition of ashes might be an occasion where someone could contact the Covid virus. So our service times will be the same but our services will not follow the same pattern. In light of this it is important to look back at the beginnings of Ash Wednesday to understand why we observe it at all.

In the modern observance Ash Wednesday is the time that many Christians have ashes put on their forehead. This practice of using ashes has been going on for the past one thousand years (before then, for around 500 years ashes were not used, Ash Wednesday was a day for fasting). In the earliest Christian centuries people didn't put the ashes on their foreheads; instead they would sprinkle ashes on their heads and/or would sit in ashes. From AD 200 to 500 those guilty of serious sins were excluded for a time from Holy Communion; sins such as murder, adultery, or a public renunciation of one's faith during times of persecution. During that time of being excluded they did acts of penance, like extra praying and fasting, and lying in sackcloth and ashes as an outward action expressing interior sorrow and repentance. The

customary time to welcome them back to Holy Communion was at the end of Lent during Holy Week.

Christians believe that all people are sinners. So as centuries went on, the church's public prayer at the beginning of Lent added the phrase, "Let us change our garments to sackcloth and ashes," as a way to call the whole community, not just the most serious sinners, to repentance. However during the Reformation, those churches like the Anglican, the Lutheran, and the Presbyterian churches stopped observing Ash Wednesday other than as a day of fasting. The Roman Catholics continued Ash Wednesday with fasting and imposition of ashes.

In the United States we Episcopalians did not add the Ash Wednesday service into the prayer book until 1892. At that time the service was a series of prayers and Scripture readings and there was no imposition of ashes. It was the same for the 1928 version of the Book of Common Prayer. It was however still listed as a day of fasting. It wasn't until the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (the one we use) that the imposition of ashes became an option again. So we have been using this practice as Anglicans for a little over 40 years. It is a wonderful physical reminder that we are only human and that we will die and face our Maker. And when we die, we will need to answer for how we have lived. Our forefathers did not have the option of receiving ashes to help them as they considered their lives and their mortality and this year, we do not either. Still that doesn't mean we are unable to reflect on those same truths even without the imposition of ashes.

The original purpose of ashes was to provide the penitent with a visual and physical reminder of being humble and repentant before God. It was a way of abasing or lowing oneself to the bottom level of humanity. Instead of being proud and haughty it was to show God that I realize that I am really only a human made from the dirt. The symbol of ashes is the visual message of acknowledging that humility.

Understanding this is not difficult. We can do this just like our forefathers did. We can understand who we really are without using ashes. We can consider and remember that we are only mortal and that we will have to answer to God for how we are living. We can resolve to do better and to work at becoming better people.

This year I encourage you to observe Ash Wednesday as a day of fasting. I encourage you to come to church on Ash Wednesday to hear God's word and to reflect on your need to put

Inside this issue:

<i>Sr. Warden's Remarks</i>	2
<i>Ministry News</i>	2
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	3
<i>Bulletin Board</i>	3-4

away those actions in your life that aren't pleasing to God. And even though this year's Ash Wednesday service will not be what we have grown accustomed to it can still be life-changing. I am looking forward to seeing you on Ash Wednesday.

Warmly in Christ,

Fr. Lance

Sr. Warden's Remarks

Mike Ludwell, Sr. Warden



Ah February, the month of love. But, love has several levels. A Lutheran priest, Rev. David Lose points out that there are three levels of love. Not to get carried away, I chose to focus solely on what he believes to be perhaps the most important, that of *Agape*. Rev. Lose writes that "*Agape*" depicts the self-sacrificing love of a parent for a child and describes both God's love for the world as shown in Christ and the love Christians should show each other and all people.

On another note, the church is alive and well. Those of us who can are receiving the vaccine. As our numbers increase, we hope to open our doors completely for services. Fr. Lance can still be found a few minutes before services climbing up behind the altar fine tuning the wiring so that the digital broadcast works. In today's world, this is very important. God's message must be able to be transmitted. He still makes visits and phone calls to those in need of his ministry. We are so fortunate to have him. *Agape!* As mentioned in the annual report, all of the church roofs needing replacement are near completion at no cost to the church. Finally, the congregation was presented a balanced, albeit lean, budget.

Treasurer's Tidbits

Connie Mehr



Just a reminder that if you would like pledge envelopes and are not attending church, please contact the church office and request that they be mailed to you. The same goes for your annual giving statement.

We certainly hope that this year will be better than the last. We hope to get back to some normal operations later in the year, including our ministries and programs. Once this occurs, we will continue to need help from all our parishioners, especially those who are

not attending church but watching the services online. If you aren't donating or haven't donated recently or regularly, please consider doing so. It's easy to do from home—just hit the "Donate" button at the top of the St. Andrew's Webpage and follow the prompts.

Ministry News

Altar Guild



Glee Gates, Director

Patti Werner, Assistant Director

Your Altar Guild continues to serve St. Andrew's preparing the sacraments and vestments for Fr. Lance as he administers Holy Communion. As we follow the liturgical calendar, the paraments have now all been changed to green. On Ash Wednesday, February 17, the Altar colors will be changed to purple symbolizing penitence and self-reflection and remain that way until the Altar will be ceremoniously stripped of all adornment on Maundy Thursday. In addition to the purple, all the crosses will be shrouded for the duration of Lent. As Altar Guild members we feel God's presence as we perform the duties of our service.

We hope you are in good health as this trying time continues for a bit longer. We hope and pray that we will be able to celebrate Easter together this year.

The Belles of St. Andrew's

Patti Werner



It's hard to believe we are into the second month of 2021. We plan to get together for socializing later in February while respecting all covid protocols. Some of us are able to keep in touch when we see each other at church and others via phone calls. I hope we can resume meeting at least every other month. On January 10th it was time to un-decorate our Botanical tree. In case you didn't get to see it, I have included a picture. All of the ladies that helped make the decorations are very proud of their handiwork and they should be. It was a joy to make them together. Perhaps, next month we could make an Easter decoration to take home.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Connie Mehr, Treasurer
As of **December 31, 2020**

	This Month	Year to Date	2020 Budget
Revenues			
Core Church	25,309.55	328,042.05	351,900.00
Thrift Shop		18,371.69	45,350.00
Total Revenues	25,309.55	346,413.74	397,250.00
Expenses			
Core Church	22,722.23	317,197.83	376,834.45
Thrift Shop		12,660.08	20,415.55
Total Expenses	22,722.23	329,857.91	397,250.00
Net Gain/Loss			
Core Church	2,587.32	10,844.22	(24,934.45)
Thrift Shop		5,711.61	24,934.45
Total	2,587.32	16,555.83	
Investments		Bank Accounts	
SSGA	112,543.71	Sun Trust	
Alliance Bernstein	30,922.38	Unrestricted	6,995.18
		Restricted	251,673.38
		Discretionary	240.51
Total	143,466.09	Total	258,909.07

January 2021

Transfers in: 0

Transfers out: 0

Deaths: Terry Mulvey 1/4/21
Linda Birnbaum 1/15/21

Funerals: Terry Mulvey 1/20/21

Baptisms: 0

Confirmed: 0

Received: 0

Weddings: 0



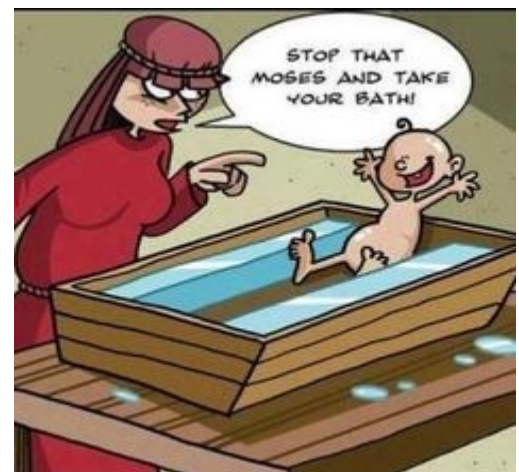
**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR
MEN & WOMEN SERVING
IN THE ARMED FORCES AT
HOME & OVERSEAS:**

*Keith Barroncini, Julian Barry,
Joseph Beatty, Martin Clausen,
Krista Crosetto, Jason Daniels, Olivia Clair,
Warren Fedoryk, Daniel Fitch,
Shawn Fitch, Howard Gidden, Sean Gilbert,
Dwayne Hamblin, Roger Handy,
Doug Henderson, Joseph Kee, Amy Kelly,
Kristina Langley, Skip LaPointe,
Karen Monday-Gresham, Rhett Roy,
Tracy Thomas, Courtney Foster McCorvey,
Peter Turner, & Mary Turner.*

**Please call the office with updates to
this list.**

January Attendance

Week Ending Sat./Sunday	* Other Services	Sat. 4 pm	Sunday 8 am	Sunday 10:30 am	Total
January 2/3		38	37	55	130
January 9/10		37	31	46	114
January 16/17		38	35	59	132
January 23/24	*31	41	35	53	160
January 30/31		46	34	55	135
TOTAL	31	200	172	268	671
AVERAGE		40	35	54	135



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

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Spring Hill, FL 34606
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Spring Hill, FL 34611

The Rev. Lance Wallace, Rector
Cell 352-515-8657
Email: Fr.Lwallace@gmail.com

Sunday Services

8 am Service
10:30 am Service

Saturday Services

4 pm Service (no music)

Parish Office Hours

Mon. & Thurs. 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Diocese Website

www.episcopalswfl.org

The Parish Chimes Editors

Lisa Jackson & Debbie Smith
Email:
schurch22@tampabay.rr.com

February

BIRTHDAYS

1 Blake William Smart

2 Russell Meissner

2 Debbie Smith

3 BJ Lawson

3 Eileen McGiffin

4 Emily Ann Lindsey

5 Sharon Ricks

6 Michelle Meissner

7 Jane Hood

7 Isabel Lalane

7 Janice Velasques

9 Ileta Monahan

9 Gretchen Murray

11 Salwa Eldarzi

12 Jodi Ausland

13 Bob Armitage

13 Karen Risley

16 Bob Meissner

17 Pat Good

17 Lucy Joyce

17 Dorothy Walker

18 Rev. Elaine Cole

21 Michaela Crooks

21 Linda Neill

23 Mary Clark

25 Kay Hatch

25 Sylvia Hicks

25 Cheryl Pederson

28 David Mulholland

\$10 off

Friends & Family Savings Coupon



Call to register at
1-888-653-6450

Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on **Saturday, March 6th at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.**

Four screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke.

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests + Osteoporosis

screening for \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). The screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount please call 1-888-653-6450 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitypartners or text CIRCLE to 797979

Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early

We're on the web!
standrewschurchsh.org
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St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

February

anniversaries

1 Minnie & Jerry Yoerg

5 Pat & Jim Dodge

10 Lill & Art Giordano

15 Pat & Lou Johnson