



At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

Holy Week and Easter at St. Peter's

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 31, at 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 1, at 8 and 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Liturgy of the Palms

Music at 10:30: Kenneth Leighton's "Solus ad victimam"

After the 10:30 a.m. service:

Stations of the Cross for children/young people/parents in the Bistro

Stations of the Cross images by adult Lenten book study group in the Parish Hall

4 p.m. Choral Evensong

Maundy Thursday, April 5

6 p.m. Agape dinner, Parish Hall

Tickets: \$5/individual, \$15/family

7 p.m. Holy Eucharist, foot-washing, stripping of the altar

Bishop Coadjutor Dabney T. Smith, celebrant

Cathedral choral scholars will sing 9 p.m. All-night vigil starts, St. Mary's Chapel

Good Friday, April 6

7:45 a.m. Way of the Cross through downtown streets

12 noon Liturgy for Good Friday; quiet music; communion from the Reserved Sacrament

1 to 2 p.m. Stations of the Cross; communion from the Reserved Sacrament

7 p.m. Bach: "St. Matthew Passion"

Directed by Edward Barbieri

Cathedral choirs, St. Petersburg Festival Chorus & Orchestra

Tickets: \$25 (\$15 students/seniors)

Holy Saturday, April 7

9 a.m. Holy Saturday liturgy

No 5 p.m. service today

8 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter with Baptisms Bishop Coadjutor Dabney T. Smith will celebrate and preach

A festive reception follows the service

Easter Sunday, April 8

7:30, 9 and 11:15 a.m.; 6 p.m.

Bishop Coadjutor Dabney T. Smith will celebrate and preach at the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services

No fellowship breakfast today

Reception after the 9 a.m. service in the Parish Hall

Flowering of the Cross by children at 9 a.m. service

6 p.m.: Come As You Are (CAYA)



Who Doesn't Love Weddings?

The Rev. Canon Gigi Conner

Who doesn't love weddings? It may surprise you to learn that most clergy don't. Why? Because the idea that marriage is a sacrament of the church never crosses the minds of many brides and bridegrooms, and the church is usually the last check-off on the "to-do" list.

St. Peter's Cathedral publishes a nice little booklet about weddings (also on line at www.spcathedral.net). We have tried to cover everything a couple needs to know about getting married here. We ask that couples read this

booklet carefully, agree to our "wedding customary," and then schedule a meeting with the clergy. After the couple meets with the clergy, the date may be put on the calendar.

All too often the church is the last thing a couple considers. The reception site has been booked, the caterer lined up, sometimes a wedding planner is hired, a dress has been picked out, the honeymoon destination planned, and then — then! — a couple turns to the church and says, "We are getting mar-

ried on this date and we want to book the church."

But this is not the way most clergy/churches operate. We meet with a couple first to determine if the marriage should take place. The Episcopal Church requires some premarital counseling. (The state of Florida discounts the cost of a license by 35 percent if you have this counseling.) The church asks that clergy meet with a couple over a period

continued on page 2

Crosswinds

Mark your calendar for 6 p.m. Saturday, April 14. That's the night of our annual **Dominican Dinner**, a fundraiser for our mission team that will go to the Dominican Republic this summer to teach Vacation Bible School. Watch for tickets and details.

On two Wednesday nights, we'll show the two-part PBS special, **"From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians,"** at 6:30 p.m. in the Bistro. Contemporary scholars draw on the Gospels, archaeological findings, music, and scenes of the places where Jesus lived and died to create a portrait of Jesus the man and his teachings and the religion that rose from them. The New York Times calls it "an absorbing series, a testament to scholarly fascination with the development of Christianity and awe for its triumph." We'll show Part 1 on April 18, Part 2 on April 25.

Visit us on the web! See our new and improved web site at www.spcathedral.net. We have greatly enhanced the appearance and content. The intention is to make this the place you turn to first for breaking news, updates, references, and information about the cathedral. We know that people who are looking for a church are likely to look first on the internet, so we want our web site to be as appealing and informative as possible. Thanks to the team that worked long and hard on this project: Dan Breckenridge, Gigi Conner, Andi Gorton, Sheree Graves, Andy Irwin, Pam League, Paul Meeker, John Miller, Karen Saint-John, and Pat Wahlen. If you have comments or questions, please e-mail them to shereegraves@asgraves.net.

Our mission team returns to New Orleans May 4-9 to do

Who Doesn't Love Weddings?

continued from page 1

of time. This, of course, assumes that the couple is attending church regularly. Often we give "assignments" to a couple, such as, "Bring in the budget on which you will live." Or: "Tell me about how you resolve conflict when you get into an argument." When a couple says, "We never fight," we know they are not living in the real world. Even the prayers for the couple in the marriage service (in the Book of Common Prayer) state: "and when they hurt each other. . . ." We acknowledge that as human beings we do hurt each other from time to time.

Most people who want to get married are loath to hear anything that might go against their plans, but the clergy are charged to ask hard questions about what that new life will be like. Once, in Washington, I was meeting with a couple who were, shall we say, not forthcoming with conversation. It was like pulling teeth to get them to talk, and then — just before the counseling session was over — one of them would blurt out some outlandish comment about the other. After three sessions I said, "Something is going on here, and I'm not equipped to deal with it. You need to see a certified counselor. Then come back." They followed through with the counselor and ended up not getting married.



We are a liturgical church. There is a certain way we do things, and a wedding is no exception. We read lessons, meaning that we hear the Word of God. What scripture has to say to us is important. We usually recommend that the Eucharist be included in the service as a first act of marriage. When I realize that a couple has no idea of what I am talking about, I say, "Why do you want to get married in the church?" The answers run from "It's such a pretty place" to "It's what you're supposed to do."

As I was writing this article I went online and typed in the word "wedding." Then I clicked on a few of 47,900,000 or so sites. One site had a checklist for weddings with costs. A hotel (without food) was listed in the range of \$3,000. A wedding planner costs \$3,000 to \$4,000. (There was also a "special effects" category; I shudder to think of what that might be.) On this checklist, the church wasn't even listed as a location! (St. Peter's requests \$1,500 from members, twice that from non-members.)

A wedding planner, by the way, has nothing to say about the church service. She or he can plan away for everything that happens outside the church, but the church service is under the direction of the clergy. A wedding planner is not a necessity. The music chosen is under the direction of the musician and the clergy. There are some pieces of music or types of music (or singers) that we do not use in church.

So what can make a church wedding a really wonderful experience for all concerned, even the clergy? After the two of you decide to get married, call the church first! If you are not already coming to church, then start to come to church. What is the point of getting married in a church if you do not worship together in church? Meet with the clergy. Set the date. In the planning of the service you will eventually meet with our Flower Guild, who outshine most florists, and the Cathedral musician. We have "wedding belles" here who will organize the rehearsal and

continued on page 3

send you down the aisle on the day of the wedding. Think about which lessons will be read and who will read them. I know one priest who requires that couples write a paragraph explaining why they chose each lesson and what it means to them.

Lastly, think about this: The wedding service itself is about 40 minutes out of a couple's life. A wedding can be more meaningful if the attention is put on what is being said in the service, not the trappings of the service. The real work of a wedding is what begins afterwards: a new life, in Christ, together.

P.S. If you want to be married at another location (a park, the beach, a club), ask any of the clergy about the pitfalls of such a service. We'll be glad to tell you.

Go Conner

ERD Sunday of Hope: April 29

Betsy Adams

As the days of Lent pass swiftly by, we look forward with hope to Easter morning. Through Jesus's unconditional love and self-giving, we are transformed into an Easter people. For many, here and abroad, the joy of Easter is a vision clouded by the daily struggle for essentials: food, water, shelter, income, and health.

For more than 60 years Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) has been an Easter Ministry, bringing Christ's compassion, joy, and hope to thousands around the world. Founded in 1940 as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, the fund sought to provide relief for those fleeing World War II in Europe. The name was changed in 2000 to reflect an emphasis on ongoing emergency relief as well as a growing focus on long-term development and rehabilitation programs. ERD provides relief in times of disaster and promotes sustainable development by identifying and addressing the root causes of suffering. ERD is the administrator of the gifts that WE provide. WE ARE ERD.

April 29 is ERD Sunday at St. Peter's. We will gather in our Lenten and Easter ERD offerings and present them to God as our gift of reconciliation. This is the Sunday to bring your ERD "Hope Chests" (the "mite boxes" you received back at the beginning of Lent). We will also have ERD donation envelopes available.

Our guest homilist that day is our diocesan ERD coordinator, Maureen Belote. After the 10:30 a.m. service, please join us in the Parish Hall to learn more about ERD's work and get a taste of foods from around the world. We will serve Bishop's Blend coffee ("fair trade"). Please join us on April 29 — and remember, we are ERD!

Music for Lunch

Music for Lunch, our noontime concert series, continues at 12:05 p.m. Wednesdays. A freewill offering is taken, and an optional lunch (\$6.50) is available afterward in the Parish Hall, where you can mix with fellow music-lovers and the performers. Here's the schedule:

April 18: Paula Rossin, organ

April 25: Edward Barbieri,
organ

May 2: Cathedral choral
scholars

Crosswinds, from page 2

more gutting of houses damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Read Jim Stewart's story about his experience on the first trip last November at our web site, www.spcathedral.net. If you'd like to go, please speak to Canon Conner. If you can't go but would like to support the work, checks are gratefully accepted. These will cover renting vans to get around the city, food, and equipment. Volunteers pay their own airfare and sleep in a church hall.

Here's the April lineup for our **free movie series**, shown at 7 p.m. Fridays in the Bistro. See the web site (www.spcathedral.net) or bulletin boards for details.

April 6: *Central Station* (Brazil, 1998)

April 13: *Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont* (England, 2005)

April 20: *The Widow of St. Pierre* (France, 2000)

April 27: *Man on the Train* (France, 2002)



Chapter Hosts a Free Breakfast!

Come enjoy a free breakfast on April 22, hosted by your Chapter. "We want to thank the men of the Breakfast Club who faithfully prepare breakfast every week, and give them a Sunday off," said senior warden Sheree Graves. "It's also our pleasure to treat the congregation, thank them for their confidence and support in the Chapter, and introduce ourselves. The Chapter is sometimes invisible from one annual meeting to the next and we'd like to have a higher profile so people know who we are and feel comfortable approaching us and letting us know what's on their minds." See you at breakfast, from ~~8:30 to 9:15 a.m.~~ April 22!

Weekend Worship

Saturday

5 p.m.: Holy Communion and Homily
A traditional service, no music

Sunday

8 a.m.: Holy Communion and Homily
A traditional service, no music

8:30-9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Christian education for all ages

10:30 a.m.: Holy Communion (child-friendly) and Homily
A spirit-filled celebration (Rite I), with hymns and choir

4 p.m. Choral Evensong

6 p.m.: CAYA (Come As You Are)
*Holy Communion in the round, followed by a shared supper.
Celtic prayers and music from around the world.*



Monday-Friday

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m. ☩ Evening Prayer, 4:45 p.m.

Wednesday Service of Healing, 10 a.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Holy Communion, 12:05 p.m.

Visiting/getting in touch

Street address: 140 Fourth Street N (33701). Church entrance: On Second Avenue N just west of Fourth Street. Please use the garden door on week-days. Office entrance is through the garden on the Fourth Street side.

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 1581, St. Petersburg, FL 33731-1581

Telephone:

(727) 822-4173

Fax:

(727) 823-2205

E-mail:

stpetersplace@spcathedral.com

Web Site:

www.spcathedral.net

Our clergy and senior staff:

The Very Rev. Dr. Russell L. Johnson, Dean —
rjohnson@spcathedral.com

The Rev. Canon Georgene Conner, Canon Evangelist —
canongigi@spcathedral.com

The Rev. Canon Millard Neal, Canon Pastor

The Rev. Lynde E. "Ted" May IV, assisting priest

The Rev. Clyde Nabe, assisting priest

The Rev. Richard T. Earle III, Deacon — rearle@fishersauls.com

Edward Barbieri, Director of Music (Organist/Choirmaster) —
music@spcathedral.com

Paula Rossin, associate organist

Pamela J. League, Administrator — pam@spcathedral.com

At any time after hours you have a **pastoral emergency**, call (727) 742-3371 (Dean Johnson) or (727) 742-8509 (Canon Conner).

Crosstown is the newsletter of the people of St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral, published monthly for members, friends, and supporters. Editor, Judy Stark (judy Stark@yahoo.com); Associate Editor, Mary W. Matthews (mothermary@extremelysmart.com). **Next deadline: April 15, 2007.**

St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral

The Episcopal Seat of the Diocese of Southwest Florida

The Rt. Rev. John B. Lipscomb, D.Min., Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Dabney T. Smith, Bishop Coadjutor

The Cathedral office will be closed April 9 through 11, Monday through Wednesday after Easter. No services, no activities those days.

Transitions

April Birthdays

1 Juliet Miller	6 Ria Norris Tristan Shuler Geoff Winant	11 Tom Brew Peter Irwin	16 Patricia DeCandido Rebecca Gecan Beverly Ann Reilly	24 Vivian Covey Sherry Dye Tyler Long Bill Sinclair
2 Rosemary Campbell Mack Guthrie	7 Gaye Burnsed David Lasky Christopher Peterson Ric Randall Susan Stansbery	12 Rob Armstrong Beverly Bennett Max Bygrave Virginia Harrison John Legge Samantha Owen George Richards	17 Betty Beck Jack Regan	25 Betty Allison Mary Lou Keeler Lee Puckett
3 Eaddy Payne John Samaha, Jr Hilary Sosa	8 James Jennings Marlyss Kuenzel	13 Greg Donham Vincent Roth, Jr Martha Wilkinson	18 Carla Turner-Hahn	26 Helen O'Brien Robert Warren
4 Jonathan Bryant	9 Marilyn Swan	14 Gertrude Ross	19 Rebecca Hallas Betty Huck	27 James Dahm Dallas Holtman Albert Roberts
5 Erin Biggs Mary Rieth Virginia Ryan	10 Don DeWolf	15 Judith Johnson Allison Spring	21 Bob Bergman Smith Williams	28 Zachary Howlett
6 Matthew Heinly Jeffrey Howells Ryan Leavengood Merle Morgan			22 Sarah Marks Anita Pernell-Arnold	29 Judith Murante
			23 Jackie Jacobs	

April Anniversaries

3 Vonnie and Will Bennett John and Sandy Hoover	10 Michael and Natalie Cox Christy and Jonathan Dunn Jack and Lois Wilt	17 Judy Stark and Tim Baker	23 Sheila and Ty Hinson Randy and Tammy Ramsey	26 Gabriel and Patricia DeCandido
6 John and Vicki Huggins	13 Daniel and Deidra Roberts	20 Jillian and Warren Frers Blanton and Lela Garnett Hobie and Mary Hind Geoff and Rhia Winant	24 Marie and Richard Dahm	29 Christopher and Suzanne Haerther
9 Laura and Tom Blackwell			25 Andy and Natalie Irwin	30 Marjorie and Patrick Donnelly Corey and Peggy Staples

Dollars, Givers Increase for 2007 Budget

Our 2007 pledge drive brought in 235 pledges for a total of \$599,828. That represents an increase of 6.79 percent over 2006, when the total pledged was \$561,667 from 240 pledgers. The average pledge this year is \$2,552, up from \$2,340 last year.

"It's great to see that people have made larger pledges," treasurer Martha Goodwill said. "Thirty of those were new pledges, from people who had never pledged before. Those are positive trends." Those new pledges total \$40,431, for an average of \$1,347. In addition, 98 people increased their pledges, 76 pledged the same amount as last year, and 31 decreased their pledges.

"But the fact is that we have 850 people on the rolls, and only about a third make a pledge," Martha said.

Our 2007 budget assumes income from pledges and contributions of \$650,945. (Contributions are financial gifts other than pledges, i.e., cash in the collection plate on Sundays or unanticipated donations by someone who does not pledge.) "That leaves us about \$50,000 short in a budget where we have already cut severely in every area," Martha said, particularly in staff and administration. Much of the budget represents fixed costs: salaries, benefits, insurance, utilities.

You can help close that gap by pledg-

ing a "13th month." Take the amount you pledge now and divide by 12, then pay a "13th month's pledge." This is like making 13 payments to pay off your mortgage faster. You needn't do this all at once; you can pay \$10 or \$20 at a time in the course of the year so it's practically painless. Look for special "13th month" envelopes in the pews.

"As summer comes on and people go on vacation, I hope we'll all remember to keep up our pledges or use direct deposit so the money comes in steadily and we can avoid drawing on our line of credit to cover our expenses," Martha said. See financial manager Paula Rossin to make those financial arrangements.