



CROSSTOWN

April 2008

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

Our Dreams Become Reality: Groundbreaking!

Pat Wahlen, Building Committee Chair

The big day is Sunday, May 11!
We'll officially break ground on our new building.

The ceremony will take place at the end of the 9 a.m. service.

We'll process from the church out to the building site, and there we'll have some prayers and music . . . some official turning of the first spadefuls of soil . . . and some cheers and hoorays, and lots of photo opportunities. (And things to eat and drink, of course.)

That Sunday is also Pentecost, the birthday of the church . . . a fitting day for our new birth. And it's also Mother's Day.

The actual work will begin a little later in the month when we start moving

dirt around and pouring foundations.

The month of April will be a busy one:

— We're working to obtain the permits we need from the city (lots of paperwork here);

— We're working with Peter Brown Construction, our general contractor, to go over the costs, line by line, and value-manage them to come up with a final figure.

You'll see a construction fence go up around the site around the middle of May, once some of the heavy equipment is onsite and crews are preparing to start work.

We're delighted that Bishop Smith has announced that he will have a satellite office in our new building, a suite of

about 1,000 square feet that he and other diocesan staff can use. This underscores our position as the bishop's seat in this diocese. As you see on the floor plans, we also plan a Bishop's Chapel, a modest-size worship space that can be configured in a variety of ways for various kinds of worship.

As you all know, WRH Princess Martha declined to buy the Baptist Sanctuary after all. The property is still on the market. We've always known that it would be a difficult sale and wouldn't be a quick sale. But one thing it won't be is a fire sale. We can move ahead with our plans for our own new building

continued on page 3

Look for the Silver Lining

The Very Rev. Dr. Russell L. Johnson

This is my season, the season of resurrection when the church, after Easter, turns full force to the celebration of life raised up.

Year in and year out, of all our Church seasons, this is the season that intrigues me the most. Sure, I love Advent and Christmas and Pentecost too, but Easter and the season following are, to my way of thinking, the very best.

Where else can one find the lesson that when things are at their worst, when life is sad and hurtful, dark and gloomy, when events are going badly, when hope seems lost, it is there — precisely there — that we need to focus

our attention to perceive the miracles to come.

God knows there is always the bad in life, but that's the time when God is at God's best. And when they are bad, stay tuned: Wonders will come forth.

This is the season when Jesus would tell us to pay attention carefully. Watch how suffering and tragedy cannot defeat the grace of God. Watch how the very worst things in life can be changed into the very best things. It is never God's will that the righteous suffer, as theologian Marcus Borg says, or that bad things happen to good people. God is always in the midst of the most dire of

circumstances and finds a way to use them to God's good purpose. Out of the unspeakable horror of Jesus's death comes the jaw-dropping, joyous reality of resurrection.

The Easter season is all around you. What do you see? Lift up your heads, sing, dance, rejoice. Resurrection is all around us.

Be strong, be in God, and I'll see you in Church.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell" followed by a small cross symbol.

Crosswinds

Applications are being accepted now for the **weeklong summer camps at DaySpring** for children and youth. Elementary camp is June 15-20; youth camp, for those in grades 7 through 12, is June 22-27. The ECW is providing 50 percent scholarships for those who need financial assistance. Please talk to ECW president Sandy Hoover if you're interested: (727) 398-9639.

* * *

Congratulations to Sandy Hoover: At the deanery gathering of ECWs on March 6 at St. Peter's, representatives of the nine churches in the deanery elected Sandy director of the St. Petersburg Deanery. She'll take office November 17.

* * *

A diocesanwide confirmation service will be at 11 a.m. April 12 at the Cathedral. Bishop Smith will confirm and receive candidates from around the diocese. All are welcome at this festive service!

* * *

Looking ahead to the summer: We **switch to two services**, at 8 and 10 a.m., on June 1.

* * *

The year 2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of the **Diocese of Southwest Florida**. That year the big Diocese of South Florida was divided into Southwest, Central and Southeast. It is also the 40th anniversary of the naming of St. Peter's as the Cathedral for our diocese. It marks the 120th anniversary of the founding of the mission (Church of the Holy Spirit, in 1889) that later became St. Peter's. And our new building is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009. It will be quite a year!

The diocese is starting to think about ways to celebrate these anniversaries, and so are we. Please speak to Judy Stark if you have suggestions.

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continued on page 3

Creating Our Future: Transition Plans Sheree Graves, Senior Warden

Several of you have asked what will happen starting July 1, when Dean Johnson starts his pre-retirement sabbatical leave.

Jim Stewart, our junior warden, and I have met with Bishop Dabney Smith to start planning that transition.

Bishop Smith will appoint a vicar, a priest reporting directly to him, who will be our spiritual leader while we search for and call a new dean. No decisions have been made about who the vicar will be or an exact start date, but we expect it will be this summer.

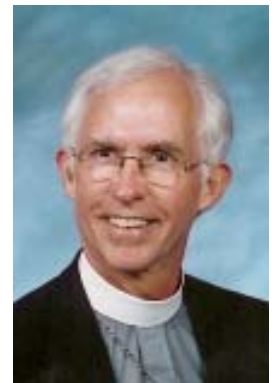
Bishop Smith will be here Sunday, July 6, to preach at all services. He will speak to us about our transition process and the great future he envisions for the Cathedral. He has said that he expects big things from and for us. The bishop will assist us in identifying potential candidates and conducting the search. A search committee will recommend a candidate or candidates to the Chapter, and the Chapter elects the dean.

Meanwhile, we're planning a happy "hail and farewell" for Russell and Judith, to take place in late June. We'll have details as the plans take shape. The dean's sabbatical runs through Dec. 31, when he officially retires.

Dean Johnson will be away April 2 through 8 at the North American Deans' Conference at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans.

From April 20 through 29 Dean Johnson will attend a CREDO conference at the Roslyn Episcopal Conference Center in Richmond, Va. CREDO is a program that helps clergy define their vocations, embrace wellness, and reflect on their personal and professional lives.

And the Johnsons will be on a much-anticipated trip to France from May 13 through 27.



We're Already Planning for Next Fall!

**Susan Churuti,
Stewardship Chair**

Our fall stewardship dinner isn't until October 16, but mark your calendar now and save the date. Our speaker will be the Very Rev. Tracey Lind, dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Cleveland.

Under the leadership of Dean Lind, a former city planner, Christ Church has experienced tremendous growth and development as a diocesan Cathedral, a vibrant and inclusive community of faith, and a leading institution in the heart of the city. We look forward to welcoming Dean Lind and hearing how her experiences might inspire our worship and ministry.





Time for the picnic!

What: Our annual picnic

Where: Fossil Park, 6501 M.L. King (Ninth) St. N
(new location this year)

When: Sunday, April 27, starting at 1 p.m.

The details: The church provides chicken and beverages. You provide the salads, sides and desserts.

What else: Games, music, general merriment. Bring folding chairs, hats, sunscreen.

Bus service will be provided. Please call the office (727-822-4173) if you'll need a ride.

Come Tiptoe Through the Tulips!

Carolyn Randall, Flower Guild

A daylong flower-arranging workshop, sponsored by the Flower Guild, will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 5 in the Cathedral. In the morning, you'll learn about flower maintenance and how to create several types and sizes of arrangements. After lunch, Brian Redman of Redman Steele florists will demonstrate the creation of one of his dramatic and beautiful arrangements. Your \$15 fee covers coffee and rolls, lunch, and all materials. Come and bring your friends! Call the office to register: (727) 822-4173.

That same day the Episcopal Church Women will hold a plant sale. (You can come and buy plants even if you don't attend the flower workshop.) Proceeds benefit Our Daily Bread and our mission in the Dominican Republic.



Our Dreams Become Reality *continued from page 1*

even if the sanctuary hasn't sold. We have talked to several other interested parties, and we know we haven't written the last chapter of this story yet.

Our most recent Question and Answer sheet is available on the Welcome Cart or under Building News at myspcathedral.net. As always, both senior warden Sheree Graves (shereegraves@asgraves.net) and I (pwahlen@msn.com) are happy to speak with you about any of this.

Crosswinds, from page 2

At 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 18, the Gospel Ensemble of Gibbs High School will present "**Simon of Cyrene**" in our sanctuary. This involves music, dance, and performance by these talented teenagers as they reenact the Biblical story of the man who carried Jesus's cross. All are welcome!

* * *

At 1 p.m. Sunday, May 11, we will **stand in silence** for five minutes at Fourth Street and Second Avenue N in support of the world's children, grandchildren, and the seven generations beyond. All are welcome to participate. See a video of last year's observance around the world at www.standingwomen.org.



Computer Use at St. Peter's

A friendly reminder: The office computers are to be used only for official Cathedral business. Sorry: No surfing the net, no solitaire, no checking your e-mail, no shopping on eBay or checking out your friends on MySpace, no YouTube videos. And no viewing of X-rated, pornographic, or other objectionable sites on Cathedral computers or your own laptop on our premises.

The Chapter has approved a policy about computer use on our campus; read it at myspcathedral.org.



April Music Offerings

Plan to attend these two musical performances in April: At 4 p.m. Sunday, April 6, festal evensong; and at the 11:15 a.m. service April 20, an orchestral Mass, Mozart's "Missa Brevis" (K220).

St. Peter's: A Guide

With God's help, we will welcome all people.

Weekend Worship

Saturday

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

Sunday

7:30 a.m.: Holy Communion and Homily
A traditional service, no music

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

11:15 a.m.: Choral Holy Communion and Homily
A sung service with choir

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.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Choral Evensong, 6:15 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Holy Communion, 12:05 p.m.



Visiting/getting in touch

Office/Parish Center: 201 Fourth St. N. (33701). Church entrance:
On Second Ave. N just west of Fourth St.

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

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, 2008.

St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral
The Episcopal Seat of the Diocese of Southwest Florida
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Dabney T. Smith, Bishop

Transitions

April Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Juliet Mastry Miller | 12 John Legge
George Richards |
| 3 John Samaha
Hilary Sosa | Rob Armstrong
Samantha Owen |
| 4 Jonathan Bryant | 13 Greg Donham |
| 5 Mary Rieth
Virginia Ryan | 14 Gertrude Ross |
| 6 Ria Norris
Tristan Shuler | 15 Judith Johnson
Chris Sorenson |
| 7 Ric Randall
Gaye Burnsed
Susan Stansbery
David Lasky
Marlyss Kuenzel | 16 Beverly Ann Reilly
Eleanor Rowe
Rebecca Gecan |
| 10 Don DeWolf | 17 Jack Regan
Betty Beck |
| 11 Tom Brew | 18 Bill Keblor |
| 12 Beverly Bennett
Max Bygrave | 19 Rebecca Hallas |
| | 21 Bob Bergman
Smith Williams |

April Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 3 Willard and
Vonnie Bennett | 23 Randy and
Tammy Ramsey |
| John and
Sandy Hoover | 24 Richard and
Marie Dahm |
| 10 Albert and Lois Wilt | 30 Patrick and
Marjorie
Donnelly |
| 17 Tim Baker and
Judy Stark | |
| 20 Blanton and
Lela Garnett | |

10th Anniversary Trip to the D.R.

Our 10th annual mission trip to teach Vacation Bible School in the Dominican Republic will be July 19-27. If you're interested in going, please see Andi Gorton (727-421-7704 or adgorton@hotmail.com). Closer to our departure time we'll be seeking financial contributions so we can buy the craft and school supplies we need in the DR. Thanks for your support and prayers!

Movies in April

Eddy Burns

Free movies are shown at 7 p.m. Fridays at St. Peter's Central. Look for details about the movies at spcathedral.net or on bulletin boards. Free popcorn!

Thanks to Russ Kirk and Steve Graulich for our excellent new movie screen!

April 4: *Amazing Grace* (England, 2007): William Wilberforce leads the effort to outlaw slavery in late 18th-century England.



April 11: *Into the Wild* (USA, 2007). A recent college graduate chucks it all to live in the Alaskan wilderness. Based on a bestselling true story.

April 18: *Un Flic* (A Policeman, France, 1975). An unusually stylish suspense crime/action movie about a bank robber and the cop trying to catch him.

April 25: *Seducing Dr. Lewis* (Canada, 2002). Oddball villagers try to persuade a doctor to stay.

To my Cathedral Family:

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

During my recent surgery you nourished my soul with your prayers and added greatly to my physical comfort with food, flowers, and visits.

Your caring and sharing has greatly

enhanced my recovery.

Special thanks also go to eucharistic ministers and vergers who covered my assignments. Again, my heartfelt thanks.

Virginia Rowell

Welcome's Back on Track

Betsy Adams

Our "Welcome to St. Peter's" classes are back on schedule. All are welcome: newcomers who want to know more, longtime members who need a refresher. The class meets after the 9 a.m. service in Room 202 at St. Peter's Central. Here's the lineup:

March 30: Christian Formation: Prayer, Bible Study and Action.

April 6: Christian Formation: What Is Ministry?

April 13: Getting Connected: A Kind of "Who's Who."

April 20: Instructed Eucharist.

