



CROSSTOWN

August 2008

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

Three Questions for Vicar Neal

The Rev. Canon Millard Neal, our longtime Canon Pastor, was named vicar of the Cathedral July 1 by Bishop Dabney Smith. We caught up with Vicar Neal and asked a couple of questions many of you have been asking.

Q: Your new title is "vicar." Tell us what that term means and how it describes what you'll be doing in the months ahead as we await a new dean.

Vicar Neal: The word "vicar" is derived from the Latin (it's related to "vicarious") and refers to one acting "in the person of" or as an agent of a superior, i.e., the Bishop. A vicar acts with all of the rights and privileges of a dean or rector. I'm here as the spiritual leader of the Cathedral, reporting directly to the Bishop. The major difference between a rector and a vicar is that a rector is called to serve by the vestry or Chapter,

while a vicar is appointed by the Bishop.

You ask what my priorities will be in the months ahead. I think this is an important time in our life together: Our new building is under construction, we have plans for the Baptist Sanctuary site, and a new dean will join us before long. Our bishop has high hopes for us as a center of worship and education for the diocese. This is a time when we should be inviting people in to see what the Good News is all about at St. Peter's.



We've got wonderful ministries, fine

music, excellent worship, and much more . . . all right here in our city's exciting, growing downtown. We have a lot to offer. I invite everyone to spread the good word about all we have here, both to newcomers and to longtime members we haven't seen in a while. That's what I plan to do and I hope you'll join me. Don't let this best-kept secret stay a secret any longer.

Q: You've been here in one capacity or another for almost 10 years now. Tell us what you think is going well, and which areas you think need some attention.

Vicar Neal: I like the warmth of the people at St. Peter's. I like the warm spirit at St. Peter's. I like the fact that although in the last 10 years we have

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Work Starts on Our New Building

Here we go! The construction trailer is onsite. Fencing has been installed around the perimeter. Our contractor, Peter Brown, has named Tanya Dorsey as our project manager. The new building is under way.

Some immediate changes to watch for: First, our executive restroom trailer soon will move around to the street on Second Avenue N. The main door on the porch will be closed off during most of the construction period. Watch for signs and ramps to help you negotiate the entrances on Second Avenue N.

Second, the city has required that we

create a covered walkway along Fourth Street N in front of the building site so pedestrians are protected from flying debris. This will be going up shortly.

In the weeks ahead the surveyor will mark out the building with stakes. Earthmoving and digging equipment will be onsite to dig out the footings and prepare the underground for utility rough-ins. Offsite, the contractor is purchasing the building materials and components we'll need.

You can view a two-week look-ahead schedule posted in the office that will explain what is scheduled to happen

every day for that two-week period.

We've started handing out periodic Construction Memos at worship services and posting them on bulletin boards, in the office, and on our web site to let you know what's going on and what to expect. (Check out our official bulletin board at St. Peter's Central!) We'll also make announcements from time to time at worship services to report on our progress.

Questions? Comments? Please speak to Pat Wahlen, building committee chair (pwahlen@msn.com) or Sheree Graves, senior warden (shereegraves@asgraves.net).

Crosswinds

Our annual **Open House Sunday and Ministry Fair** is coming up Sunday, September 7. We'll have tables set up to show off all the ministries, groups, committees, guilds, friends/brothers/sisterhoods, and activities we offer. Watch for sign-up information later this month so you can let us know if your group wants a table. Meanwhile, please review your write-up in the ministry booklet and update it as necessary; we'll announce shortly where to send those updates. (And if you're not in the ministry booklet, why not? Submit your group's information!)

* * *

Get this on your calendar: the annual **Harvest Gathering**, sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women, on Saturday, September 27, at the Mirror Lake Shuffleboard Court (same place as last year). This festive fundraising dinner this year takes the form of a luau (bring on those Hawaiian shirts!). We'll have dinner and fun and our legendary silent auction. Once again we'll be seeking experiences and gatherings rather than "stuff," given our limited space. So start thinking about gatherings, events, expeditions, tours you'd like to host. (Last year Juliette Miller gave a class in carving flowers out of vegetables; others offered barbecues, tea parties, antiquing expeditions, wine-tastings. Let your imagination run wild.) Watch for information about ticket sales in the weeks ahead.

* * *

The **Church Periodical Club** is an Episcopal institution. Its ministry is to supply books, magazines, tapes, videos and computer programs free to those who otherwise cannot obtain them. The diocesan Church Periodical Club granting committee will meet soon to consider book grants for college undergraduates. Deadline is September 2. See Sandy Hoover for an application.

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continued on page 3

Discernment Team: Our Work To Find a New Dean Is Under Way

Susan Churuti and Elaine, New Discernment Co-Chairs

In early July, the Discernment Committee received the names of seven candidates for dean from Bishop Smith. Our first step was to send them five questions, which they answered in writing. This step gave us an introduction to them and helped us start to get to know them.

We also sent the candidates packets of information about the Cathedral and St. Petersburg; everything from copies of *Crosstown* and financial information to maps and real estate guides.

While we awaited their responses to the questions, we offered you, the congregation, an opportunity to fill in a questionnaire. This was your opportunity to tell us what you think about how things are going here and what is important to you in a new dean. We are tabulating the results and will share them with you.

Our next step, during August, will be to conduct telephone interviews with our candidates. After that we will do some prayerful discerning to determine which of them we want to go visit at their home churches. Those visits will likely take place in September and October.

We invite you to speak to any member of the Discernment Committee at any time to let us know what's on your mind and what you want in our next dean. The committee members are co-chairs Susan Churuti and Elaine New; and Dick Abbott, Karen Amundrud, Bill Barlow, Blanton Garnett, Mary Jo Mastry, Marian McGrath, Paul Meeker, Virginia Rowell, Judy Stark, Jim Stewart, and Emily Williams.

We hope you will support the committee in its work and the candidates by including this prayer in your own daily devotions:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your church, and so guide the the minds of those who shall choose a dean for this Cathedral parish, and those who offer themselves as candidates, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Diocese to Offer Classes for All

The diocesan School for Ministry will start again in September, offering one-day courses to lay people, clergy, and those seeking ordination to the diaconate.

Classes in the School of General Christian Studies and the School for Pastoral Care/Congregational Resources begin September 20.

Courses in scriptural studies begin next year, and the schools for continuing clergy education and diaconal formation will start in 2010.

Each class will meet for a full day. The cost is \$45 for credit and \$35 to audit, not including class materials. Our deacon, the Rev. Richard T. Earle III, is a member of the school's advisory board.

Visit the diocesan web site (www.episcopalswfl.org) for details on the classes to be offered. Enrollment forms will be sent to every parish in the diocese, so check with the office. Questions? Call the Ven. Denis McManis, dean of the school, at the diocesan office, (941) 556-0315.

Movie Madness Matinee

Kids and their families are invited to Movie Madness Matinee at 3 p.m. Saturday, August 2, at St. Peter's Central. We'll show a kid-friendly movie, have popcorn and pizza and some games, and be on our way rejoicing by 6 p.m. All households with children are welcome, and please invite your friends!



Church Publishing Resource

St. Peter's is about to become a resource for the Church Publishing Co. That means we'll receive one copy of all the books, pamphlets, DVDs, and other items that Church Publishing produces each year (typically about 70 items).

We will be the only church in Florida to serve as this resource. We'll maintain these items so other churches can come and look, read, view a DVD, or examine a curriculum before they commit to buying it.

This is part of our continuing effort to be a major resource for our diocese.



Our bishop, Dabney Smith, shares an umbrella July 17 with the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, at Lambeth, the once-a-decade gathering of bishops in Canterbury, England.



Three Questions for Vicar Neal *continued from page 1*

gone through three deans, two interims, and three periods with a priest-in-charge or vicar (that's yours truly), we are still strong and hanging in there. We have warmth, Spirit, and oomph; and that's why I stay here. That's what's "going well."

The loss of our young people and children needs attention — the attention of every one of us — and it's going to take the efforts of every one of us to get this back on track. Let's commission a body of youth and teens that will work on this.

I would like to see us maintain or reclaim the image of "Cathedral" — the flagship church in the Diocese. How can we work this better?

Q: What can we, the congregation, do to support you in this ministry?
Vicar Neal: PRAY!!!!

Crosswinds, from page 2

Remember that we offer **automatic checking-account debit service** or automatic credit-card charges. If this would make it easier for you to pay your pledge (no check-writing! no cash! no forgetting your envelope on Sunday morning! no big check to write at the end of the year!), please call the office (727-822-4173) and speak to our financial manager, Ann Michienzi (say "McKenzie").

* * *

Coughing fit in church?

We have a cooler of bottled water in the back of the church on Sunday mornings. Please see an usher if you need water.

* * *

The **Cathedral Life Committee** (formerly known as the Continuity Committee or the Leadership Group) will meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, August 2, at St. Peter's Central. Light breakfast and child care provided. Topics include the congregational survey, search process for the new dean, and the 2008-09 calendar and programs.

* * *

After the 10 a.m. service August 31 we'll offer a **tour of the Cathedral**. Learn about its history, listen to some of the stories, have an opportunity to step up into the pulpit or gather around the altar. All welcome! Meet your tour guide, Kevin Hughes, in the marble area at the front of the church after the service.

* * *

Our youth group will soon be selling **Cathedral cookbooks** for \$10. Many of you contributed favorite recipes to these books a few months ago. Here's the finished product! The proceeds will help pay for the youth group's tickets to the Night of Joy Christian concert at Disney World next month. Anyone interested in going should see Tammy or Randy Ramsey.

* * *

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

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

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Holy Communion, 12:05 p.m.

Hurricane Reminder:

When winds are 40 mph or stronger, the Cathedral is closed: no services, no hurricane shelter.

At any time after hours you have a **pastoral emergency**, please call Vicar Neal on his cell phone: (727) 742-8519.

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: August 15, 2008.

Visiting/getting in touch

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

The Rev. Clyde Nabe, assisting priest

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

Transitions

August Birthdays

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Mary-Jane Stokes
Pat Bygrave
Gretchen Hamm | 9 Liz Allen
Jim Stevens
Victoria Fernandez | Gary Patterson
Mackenzie Chance |
| 2 David Tighe
Bonita Cobb
Mary Scott
Savannah Hamilton | 11 Ron Rymers
Judy Stanton
William Barnett
Marge Andruk | 19 Evelyn Ranuro |
| 3 Betsy Pheil
Ryan Witko | 12 Susan Wade
LaNona Robinson | 20 Vonnie Bennett |
| 4 KayeLynn Salsman
Robert Pitts
Richard Dolson | 13 Russell Johnson
Walter Koral | 21 Warren Frers |
| 5 Charlie Parsons
Don Covey | 14 Bob Churuti
Dick Burkhart
Marjorie Donnelly
Barbara Wright | 22 Christina Chase |
| 6 Christopher Cantrell | 15 Rosanne Blass
Jacqueline Jones-
Blacker | 23 Paul Chance |
| 7 Nanette Owen
Helen Johnson
Hunter Chance
John Hamm
Molly Goodwill | 16 Bill Curtis | 24 Peter Cross |
| 8 Joe Bourdow | 18 Ruth Denniston | 25 Sara Campbell |
| | | 26 Cory Center
Priscilla Hobby
Kimberly Johnson
Anna Randolph |
| | | 28 Pat Williams |
| | | 30 Karen Amundrud
Joe Burnsed |
| | | 31 Dan Walbolt
George Billias |

August Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Eric and
Kathleen Beard
Michael Blacker
and Jacqueline
Jones-Blacker
John and
Louise Garrigues | 12 Ed and Marnie Long |
| 2 Chris and Alicia
Sorenson | 13 George and
Elizabeth Wilsey
Sam Tallman and
Mike Zuravel |
| 5 Russell and
Judith Johnson | 16 Ed and Betty Shamas |
| 7 Greg and
Gaye Burnsed | 20 Joseph and
Hilary Sosa |
| 11 Andy and
Kate Munkittrick | 23 Greg Donham and
Melissa Sands
John and
Martha Legge |
| | 27 Ed and Freda Caley
John and Carol Ellis |

August Nights at the Movies

Eddy Burns

Movies are at 7 p.m. Fridays in St. Peter's Central. Free popcorn and a congenial crowd to chat with! Note our special event August 15.

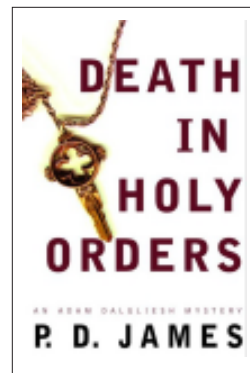
August 1: *The Seagull's Laughter*, Iceland, 2004

August 8: *Plein Soleil* (Purple Noon), France, 1960

August 15: *Death in Holy Orders*, BBC, 2004.

Special event honoring the late Gigi Stengard, one of our loyal parishioners. Come at 6 p.m. for pizza, hosted by David and Sarah Hill. P.D. James's renowned poet and Scotland Yard Commander Adam Dalgliesh (Martin Shaw) looks into the suffocation death of a student at the theological College of St. Anselm, a place where he spent peaceful time in boyhood. Upon his

arrival, Dalgliesh finds a perfect political storm converging. The Church of England is planning to close the school after selling off its art assets, and the eager agent for this mission is an archdeacon (Clive Wood) who might have murdered his wife but definitely destroyed an Anselm priest's reputation by branding him a pedophile.



August 22: *Separate Lies*, UK, 2005

August 29: *This Man Must Die*, France, 1970.



Stick This on the Refrigerator

We return to our winter schedule of services on Sunday, September 14:

Services at 7:30, 9 and 11:15 a.m.

CAYA at 6 p.m.

Education time for all ages after the 9 a.m. service