



# CROSSTOWN

August 2009

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

## How Firm a Foundation, for Our Building and Our Ministries

The Very Rev. Stephen B. Morris

I often look out my office window at the new building and think, "Wow! That is one big building." It seems to be even bigger when I go inside and look around. I cannot wait for all of you to tour it. As the building has risen, I realize that I'm always looking up at it. At this point in the construction, I don't think about the foundation quite as much.

However, the other day, when I was at the site, I noticed a particular part of the foundation. As I gazed downward, I became increasingly aware of all that has been done beneath. There is a lot of good stuff at the bottom and under the ground that makes the building stable and whole.

The building as a metaphor for what we are doing spiritually at St. Peter's is a powerful one. So much work is being done down below, underneath what you see. The amount of energy spent in Chapter and on staff to lay a secure foundation for the proliferation of ministry from the Cathedral is mighty. It will take some time yet before we see the walls, windows, and roof of our program life. It will be sound and stable and will have kingdom value because of what is buried beneath. I thank God for all who give so much of their time, talent, and treasure to make all of this happen.

One day, in the not-too-distant future, we will be rolling along with

powerful ministries housed in facilities that are second to none. I hope and pray we always remember the stuff underneath us the foundation. Without its firmness and sureness, nothing stands.

Pull out your Bibles, prayer books, and hymnals and read how often God reminds us of the foundation on which all that is good is built. It seems that God, working in and through us, is doing more than we possibly could have imagined. It is good for us to be here. May it be so forever more.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen B. Morris" with a small cross symbol at the end.

## Baptist Sanctuary Demolition to Start in Mid-August



The long-awaited demolition of the back two-thirds of the former Baptist Sanctuary is now scheduled to start around August 12 or 13.

Demolition is expected to take three weeks. Then a general contractor will begin restoration work for the facade and installation of the garden wall, parking and landscaping. This work is expected to take four months.

Under our unique agreement with the city and St. Petersburg Preservation, the front of the historic Baptist Sanctuary, facing Fourth Street N, will be preserved. Demolition of the back end will create space for the City

Peace Garden and interior and exterior columbarium niches.

Meanwhile, the shell of our new ministries building is expected to be completed by Labor Day.

The next step is to come up with enough money to complete the interiors. We have two choices: finishing out 18,000 square feet, at a cost of about \$1.2-million; or finishing out 22,000 square feet at a cost of \$1.7-million.

Raising this money in a timely manner is important. We need to be out of our rented space at St. Peter's Central

*continued on page 7*

## Crosswinds

On August 2, our Outreach Ministry invites you to bring in **donations of nonperishable foods** for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. All the food pantries are in need of donations now, with more people than ever turning to them for help. Please take advantage of the “buy one, get one” offers at the grocery store and help restock St. Vincent de Paul. Each month, Outreach identifies a specific recipient of our help and invites your participation.

\* \* \*

The **Friends of St. Aelred** meet at 7 p.m. August 12 at St. Peter's Central. They'll hear a report about the actions of the Episcopal Church's recent General Convention and view a 30-minute DVD, *Voices of Witness Africa*, about the experiences of GLBT African Anglicans. All are welcome. The program is followed by dessert.

\* \* \*

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 3, our annual **Harvest Gathering** sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women. This fund-raising dinner and silent auction are part of the celebration of our anniversary year: the 120th anniversary of our founding, the 110th anniversary of the completion of our sanctuary, and the 40th anniversary of our being named the Cathedral for the Diocese of Southwest Florida. Please start thinking about the “gatherings” that you'll host, to be sold at the silent auction: everything from barbecues to wine-tastings, cake-decorating classes to fly-tying workshops, tours of antiques shops to cooking demonstrations. Sandy Hoover will be happy to tell you more.

\* \* \*

Our annual **Open House Sunday** returns, by popular demand, on September 13. This is a day we celebrate all the ministries at St. Peter's, offer signups for fall activities and Sunday

## A New Time of Gratitude Elaine New

A hot shower, water to drink, electricity, and air conditioning. What would your life be like without these amenities? Or are they essentials to your life?

I spent 10 days this summer in the Dominican Republic, where more than 9 million people live — most of whom do not have potable water in their home, reliable electricity, sewage treatment, or air conditioning. And the temperature most days I was there was about 90 degrees Fahrenheit, with 90 percent humidity and a more intense sun because it is closer to the Equator.

I took my 18-year-old godson with a team from Tampa to work on building an Episcopal church and a school in a poor part of Santo Domingo, the capital. We went with a team from the Tampa Deanery, which has sent teams to the Dominican Republic each summer for the last 10 years. The Diocese of Southwest Florida has a companion relationship with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic. The purpose of that relationship is to strengthen each other across cultural and geographical boundaries. One of the ways that relationship is strengthened is through the Vacation Bible School programs that the Cathedral has organized for more than 10 years. Another way is through hands-on building projects.

This building project is in a neighborhood called La Barquita, with small houses and shacks, near a river. The area floods when there is significant rain. The church and school will become the focus of this neighborhood and will also be used as a hurricane shelter and for other community functions.

When we arrived, the team from the week before had completed installing the concrete block walls for the first floor. My team was assigned the job of working with the steel rebar — lifting the steel from the ground level to the roof — with no mechanical equipment. Once the steel was lifted, we tied it together so that it would reinforce the concrete when the concrete roof was poured. I learned how to use a new tool, which we referred to as a twister, to tie wire around the steel rebar. A team from South Carolina was there the next week when the roof was poured.

We stayed in a nice part of town, about a 45-minute bus ride away, but we did not have reliable electricity. All the food in our refrigerator spoiled when we were without power for 24 hours. Another morning we woke up and found there was no water. This is typical for the Dominican people.

I cannot imagine life like this. Even after witnessing it, I cannot grasp the immense poverty in that part of the world. The dead dogs in the street outside the job site were a grim reminder of the disease and poverty all around us. I had the



*Elaine New uses a “twister” to attach wire around steel rebar as she helps to build a church and school in the Dominican Republic earlier this summer.*

*continued on page 3*

opportunity to get to know a few of the people in the neighborhood. As I left, I thought, I'm returning to my nice, comfortable home, yet they remain here without things I consider essential. I get annoyed when the air conditioning in my office does not work (or is not set at a comfortable temperature), and I'm sweating in my shirtsleeves. It tries my patience and makes it hard for me to concentrate to work. Yet, most people in the D.R. do not have air conditioning — ever.

I had the opportunity to talk with a young woman who is attending law school. Her father is a doctor. Yet, their family does not have air conditioning. She said they could afford to buy an air conditioner, but they could not afford to pay for the electricity to run it.

While much work remains to be done on the building (and a second story to be built next summer), the people of this poor community were so grateful for the progress on this church and school. I wished that we could have done more. I left with a sense that there is so much need — it was a struggle not to let it overwhelm me. But I reminded myself of a quote from Leo Tolstoy: "But I say, 'Yes, I cannot help everyone. But I can make a difference to this one, or that one.'"

I went to help the people there, but I left richer and more grateful for the things I do have. This experience was a good reminder of how fortunate I am and how much I take for granted. I have returned with a renewed sense of gratitude for so many things — especially air conditioning!



## Come Hear Our D.R. Stories August 23

### Andi Gorton, VBS Mission Chair

*¡Hóla!* We're still in the Dominican Republic as this newsletter arrives in your mailbox. We return August 2 from our annual mission trip teaching Vacation Bible School.

Thank you to everyone who contributed Crayolas. We took 3,600 crayons with us when we departed July 25. Some will be distributed to the children at VBS. Others we'll leave in "the D.R." to be given to children in the course of the year.

Thanks to everyone for your prayers, donations, and time. Without you, we would not be able to share the love of Christ in a developing country where other Episcopalians are living out their faith as they struggle to survive.

We will tell the stories of our experiences this summer at a presentation on August 23 after the 8 a.m. service. Elaine New will be with us to describe her experiences on a building project in the D.R., which she shares in the story above.

Please join us at 9 a.m. at St. Peter's Central. There will be coffee and donuts as usual and we'll share our stories and pictures and tell you about the mission work you made possible.



*The construction site.*

## Crosswinds, from page 2

School, and welcome old and new to our faith community as another program year begins. (There will be food too; this is a St. Peter's event!) If your group wants to have a table at the ministry fair, please sign up at the Welcome Cart.

\* \* \*

We have uploaded a **new Parish Directory** to our web site, [www.myspcathedral.org](http://www.myspcathedral.org). Many of our members are listed but without photographs because — we need a photo of you! Please e-mail a jpeg to Judy Evans at [jevans@spcathedral.com](mailto:jevans@spcathedral.com). You'll need to set up a free account the first time you visit this site (this is easy to do). Then you'll be able to view many parish-related documents in addition to the directory. We aren't printing the directory because of the cost. Maintaining it online allows us to update it regularly, add new pictures, change phone numbers and other contact information.

\* \* \*

Each Wednesday through August 26, a group meets at the Atlanta Bread Co. to study Barbara Brown Taylor's new book, ***An Altar in the World***. Canon Conner will lead the discussions, which are self-contained, so you can attend any or all. Order the book at our online bookstore: go to [www.spcathedral.net](http://www.spcathedral.net) and click on the red "Cathedral Bookstore" link in the lower left corner. If you plan to eat dinner at ABC (at your own expense), please arrive early so you can gather in the reserved meeting room and we can start on time at 6:30 p.m. Let us know if you plan to come so we have enough handouts: Call the church office at (727) 822-4173. The Atlanta Bread Co. is at 179 First Ave. N, a few doors east of Starbucks.

\* \* \*

It's time for the annual ***Episcopal Life*** subscription drive. In 2010 this publication will change from the monthly tabloid newspaper we're familiar with to a quarterly glossy magazine. Subscriptions

*continued on page 4*

## Crosswinds

*continued from Page 3*

are \$15. Please make your check payable to St. Peter's and note "Episcopal Life" in the memo line. Deadline is September 1. Questions? Please see Judy Stark.

\* \* \*

**Sisters of the Circle** are on a summer break. Their weekly meetings will resume at 7 p.m. Sept. 1 with a planning session. On August 25 they will prepare supper for the families at Ronald McDonald House. Call Judy Beck if you'd like to participate: (727) 368-5602. Bring family-friendly, kid-friendly food or drinks for about 30 people to the house at 401 Seventh Ave. S. Sisters of the Circle is open to all women seeking spiritual sisterhood.

\* \* \*

**Hurricane Reminder:** When winds are 40 miles per hour or stronger, the Cathedral is closed. Scheduled services are canceled. St. Peter's cannot offer itself as a hurricane shelter.



*This 1889 silver dollar was presented to Dean Morris by Marguerite Dawson at a luncheon July 19 honoring longtime members of our congregation. The coin is dated 1889, the year of the founding of the mission church that became St. Peter's. Dean Morris has it on display in his office.*

## Sing Along with St. Peter's Choirs!

### Dwight Thomas, Director of Music Ministries

St. Peter's choir rehearsals will begin in September and we're looking for interested singers! Our music ministry is affiliated with The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), a program that originated in England and is used by Anglican choirs around the world. This successful program emphasizes the importance of understanding not only of what we sing and how to sing well, but also why we sing in worship as an expression of our faith.

Currently St. Peter's has the following ensembles:

**The Cathedral Choir** rehearses from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays and sings Sundays for the 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist. It also sings at concerts and special liturgies as scheduled. Singers should be able to read music and have some experience in ensemble singing.

**The Schola Cantorum** is a smaller ensemble of singers from within St. Peter's and from outside the Cathedral community, with very good music reading ability and more extensive singing and ensemble experience. This choir rehearses from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and sings for Choral Evensongs, concerts, and special liturgies as scheduled.

**The St. Peter's Treble Choir** is a group of girls and boys who are trained in the Royal School of Church Music scheme. Details about this choir will be coming soon.

Besides the choral ensembles, St. Peter's also has a **Handbell Choir** that plays for special liturgies and festivals. It is directed by Rick Waterman. We're actively seeking more bell-ringers; if you're interested, please see Rick.

For more information about any of these ensembles, please contact Dwight Thomas, Director of Music Ministries, at the Cathedral, (727) 822-4173, ext. 115.



## Still Time to Sign Up for EfM

**Emily Williams**

Openings are still available in our Thursday night session of the Education for Ministry course, which begins the week of September 14. The Monday night group is full.

EfM is a four-year course covering the basics of a theological education: Old Testament, New Testament, church history, and theological trends and movements in the church. Participants register for one year at a time. EfM was developed at the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee).

We meet weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in seminar groups of six to 12 participants with a trained mentor during the nine-month academic year (September to May).

If you are looking for a safe place in which to explore with others your relationship with God and your role in God's world; a place to share your doubts, strengthen your faith, and broaden your knowledge of the Christian faith, EfM is the place for you!

Yearly tuition is \$340, due August 16. Please make checks payable to EfM, or see me, Emily Williams, to pay by credit card. My home address: 445 16th Ave. NE, St. Petersburg 33704. Phone: (727) 894-3447. Send me your e-mail address (emilywilliams@tampabay.rr.com) if you want to register or if you'd like me to send you more information.

# August Transitions

## Birthdays

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 Pat Bygrave<br>Gretchen Hamm<br>Mary-Jane Stokes  | 9 Liz Allen<br>Victoria Fernandez<br>Jim Stevens                                   | 20 Vonnie Bennett  |
| 2 Bonita Cobb<br>Mary Scott<br>David Tighe  | 11 Marge Andruk<br>William Barnett<br>Diane Giacobbe<br>Ron Rymers<br>Judy Stanton | 21 Warren Frers  |
| 3 Betsy Pheil<br>Ryan Witko   | 12 LaNona Robinson<br>Susan Wade   | 22 Christina Chase   |
| 4 Richard Dolson<br>Robert Pitts<br>Kayelynn Salsman  | 13 Susannah Costello   | 23 Paul Chance   |
| 5 Don Covey<br>Charlie Parsons  | 14 Dick Burkhart<br>Bob Churuti<br>Marjorie Donnelly<br>Barbara Wright             | 25 Sara Campbell<br>Holly Morris                                       |
| 6 Christopher Cantrell  | 15 Jacqueline Jones-<br>Blacker<br>Rosanne Blass                                   | 26 Cory Center<br>Priscilla Hobby<br>Kimberly Johnson<br>Anna Randolph |
| 7 Hunter Chance<br>Fran Colombo<br>Molly Goodwill<br>John Hamm<br>Helen Johnson<br>Nanette Owen | 16 Robert Curtis<br>Linda Hines  | 28 Emily Ellis<br>Marina Hamilton<br>Pat Williams<br>Becky Wright      |
| 8 Carrie Ashton<br>Ralph Beyhl<br>Joe Bourdow<br>Al Fones                                       | 18 Mackenzie Chance<br>Ruth Denniston<br>Gary Patterson                            | 29 Mary Adcock<br>Karen Newman<br>Mary Ellen Smith                     |
|   | 19 Evelyn Ranuro   | 30 Karen Amundrud<br>Joe Burnsed<br>Justin Morris<br>Meli Smith        |
|   |  | 31 George Billias<br>Dan Walbolt                                       |

## Anniversaries

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

## New Members

Judith Beck  
Cathy O'Kelley

## Newly Baptized

Colin Patrick Dunn

## Death

John Sinclair

*PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE: Our block on Fourth Street N is taking shape. The blond brick ties together all three structures: the facade of the Baptist Sanctuary (built in 1922), soon to become our columbarium; the new ministry building; and the original cathedral, celebrating its 110th anniversary this year. Our block is an important component of Fourth Street N, one of the most historic corridors in the city. The cathedral (1899) is the oldest building in a line of historic structures that includes the Open Air Post Office (1916), the Snell Arcade (1928) and the Princess Martha Hotel (1924).*



## Baptist Sanctuary Demolition

*continued from Page 1*

by year's end or we will have to start paying rent of about \$8,000 a month to First United Methodist Church. We are exploring a number of options here.

We continue to seek outside tenants for some of our new space. This is key because their lease payments will cover the mortgage on the property. Several possibilities are being considered here.

"We've put together several task forces that will move ahead to bring this project to completion," Dean Morris said. These groups will handle buildout of the new building; fund-raising; financing and tenants; acquisition of development credits from the city; and the columbarium.

"We invite your financial support, your prayers and your good spirits as we work to put the final pieces together," Dean Morris said. "Our contractor, Peter Brown, and our lender, Freedom Bank, have worked hard with us and have gone out of their way to make all this happen. Now we just need to get over this final hump."

Meanwhile, the stained glass windows and other items removed from the Baptist Sanctuary will be for sale locally only through August 15 at 173 Fourth Ave. NE. Then the salvager who is handling the sale will make them available to a national audience. Now's the time to make your purchase!

*A garden and columbarium are planned for the space now occupied by the back of the Baptist Sanctuary. Demolition is scheduled to start in mid-August.*



## Baseball with the Bishop: Get Your Tickets Now

How 'bout those Rays! Here's your chance to be at Tropicana Field during the last week of regular-season play, versus the Yankees. On Friday night, October 2, it's "Baseball with the Bishop." That involves you and lots of other people from the Diocese of Southwest Florida, including Bishop Smith. The game will likely be a sellout and could have playoff implications.



Tickets are \$24 each, of which \$4 goes to our diocesan Episcopal Charities fund. You can sign up at the Welcome Cart on Sundays or call the office, (727) 822-4173. See you at the game!

## August Movie Nights

### Eddy Burns

Join us for free movies at 7 p.m. Fridays in St. Peter's Central. We've got popcorn!

**August 7: *Das Boot, Part I*** (Germany, 1981):

Realistic and gripping battle scenes, palpable human struggle of a German U-boat crew during World War II.



**August 14: *Das Boot, Part II***, see above. An hour was added to the original film when it was restored and rereleased in 1997, which is why we're showing it over two nights.

**August 21: *The Station Agent*** (U.S., 2003): Friendless dwarf seeking solitude moves to abandoned train station in rural New Jersey, meets colorful neighbors. Courageous and sensitive film about what it means to be human.

**August 28: *Hilary and Jackie*** (U.K., 1998): Glamorous and turbulent life of famed cellist

Jacqueline du Pre contrasts with quiet life of her sister Hilary. Sisters' complicated relationship is strained by infidelity, jealousy and illness.



Suggestions and comments:  
eddyburns@aol.com.

# St. Peter's: A Guide

*All are welcome here.*

## Our Worship Schedule

### Saturday

5 p.m.: Holy Eucharist Rite II and Sermon  
*A traditional service, no music*



### Sunday

8 a.m.: Holy Eucharist Rite I and Sermon  
*A traditional service, no music*

8:45 a.m.: Early-bird bistro and fellowship

9 a.m.: Christian education for all ages  
*Nursery care available starting at 9 a.m.*

10:15 a.m.: Holy Eucharist Rite II and Sermon  
*Worship music led by choirs*

11:20 a.m.: Sidewalk bistro outside the Cathedral

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 through Friday

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, 12:05 p.m.

Holy Eucharist and Healing, Wednesdays, 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

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[www.spcathedral.net](http://www.spcathedral.net)

## Our clergy and senior staff:

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith, Bishop

The Very Rev. Stephen B. Morris, Dean —  
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The Rev. Canon Georgene Conner, Canon Evangelist —  
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The Rev. Lynde E. "Ted" May IV, assisting priest

The Rev. Peter W. Fleming Jr., assisting priest

The Rev. Richard T. Earle III, Deacon — [rearle@fishersauls.com](mailto:rearle@fishersauls.com)

Dwight Thomas, Director of Music Ministries —

[dthomas@spcathedral.com](mailto:dthomas@spcathedral.com)

Pamela J. League, Administrator — [pam@spcathedral.com](mailto:pam@spcathedral.com)

At any time after hours you have a pastoral emergency, please call our clergy on their cell phones: Dean Morris, (727) 743-1614, or Canon Conner, (727) 742-8509.

*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](mailto:judy Stark@yahoo.com)); Associate Editor, Mary W. Matthews ([mothermary@extremelysmart.com](mailto:mothermary@extremelysmart.com)). Next deadline: August 15, 2009.

Building  
consecrated  
1899



**St. Peter's**  
serving God since 1889



Cathedral  
since  
1969