



CROSSTOWN

December 2007

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

Walls Come Tumbling Down, Plans Move Ahead

Pat Wahlen, Building Committee Chair

Demolition is now scheduled to begin the week of December 3 on the office building and the Parish Hall. We had to resolve some permitting delays, but we're ready for those bulldozers to roll! Later the demolition crews will move on to the five-story Cathedral Center for Ministry. One of the realities we're learning to live with is that things take longer than we expect. Lord, grant us

patience — NOW!

We expect that groundbreaking on the new building will be in February. What a grand event that will be!

This is a good time to thank all of you for your good will as we learn to live in our temporary buildings. We've discovered that we can have gatherings, we can serve meals, we can have parties and events and meetings in our new

spaces or in alternative locations. We can manage when familiar entrances and work spaces are blocked off.

We appreciate everyone's resilience and creativity. We'll be calling on those traits again and again during the next 18 months or so of construction. And we thank all those whose pledges to the capital campaign are making our future into reality.

Begin to Live the Life You've Hoped For

The Very Rev. Dr. Russell L. Johnson

The start of a new church year on December 2 — the first Sunday in Advent — sends a message of "begin again" that I particularly love. "To begin again." Most of the world looks down on such messages, offering us just one chance: Win or lose. Succeed or fail. Get it right the first time or not at all.

God, however, continually invites us to begin again. God's message of forgiveness is exactly that: to set aside our failures, our screw-ups, our mistakes and begin again.

So what will this new church year mean to you? Same old same old? Or will you, this year, push through and begin to live the sort of life you've always hoped to live? It's scary, no question, to strike out in a new direction, but as I read somewhere recently, what really hurts isn't the letting-go of the old and familiar; it's the hanging-on to it.

A friend just sent me an e-mail that speaks to the sort of life he hopes to live. It reads like this:

"As we grow up, we learn that even the one person who wasn't supposed to ever let you down probably will. You will have your heart broken, probably more than once, and it's harder every time. You'll break hearts too, so remember how it felt when yours was broken. You'll fight with your best friend. You'll blame a new love for things an old one did. You'll cry because time is passing too fast, and you'll eventually lose someone you love.

"So take too many pictures, laugh too much, and love like you've never been hurt . . . because every 60 seconds you spend upset is a minute of happiness you'll never get back.

"Don't be afraid that your life will end. Be afraid that it will never begin."

This new year, fill up your life with love, and I'll bet the rest will take care of itself. See you in Advent.

Be strong, be in God,

INSIDE:

The Big Calendar:
Advent, Christmas,
Epiphany Events,
Page 3

Welcome John Bell,
Hymn Writer
Extraordinaire!
Page 2

Crosswinds

Spend some time this Advent hearing **the Christmas story** in a new way. Canon Conner will lead a class at 7 p.m. December 5, 12 and 19 in the Atrium. The first week we'll view two videos from the "Saving Jesus" series about the birth of Christ in the context of first-century Palestine. The next two weeks we'll discuss the book "The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach Us About Jesus's Birth," by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. All welcome!

* * *

December 2 is the first Sunday of **Advent**, the start of a new Christian year. We'll blow the ram's-horn — the shofar — and sing, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord! Make the paths straight!" Each Sunday — December 2, 9, 16 and 23 — we'll light another candle on the Advent wreath.

Another Advent tradition: On December 2, you'll be invited to fill in a card with your name and address, drop it into a basket at the altar and take a card out. The person whose card you draw out is your Krist Kindl, your Christ Child. You'll pray for this person throughout Advent, maybe drop an anonymous note from time to time ... and then identify yourself on Christmas Eve, possibly with a small gift. While you're praying for someone, someone else is praying for you.

Check these Web sites for online Advent calendars:

www.gracecathedral.org/advent, from Grace Cathedral in San Francisco;
www.explorefaith.org/advent;
www.beliefnet.com; and
www.edow.org/spirituality/advent, from the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

* * *

Bring in your calendars!

We're collecting 2008 calendars to pass on to the seafarers' mission at the Port of Newark, N.J. Leave them at the

A Healthy Pledging Trend

Susan Churuti, Stewardship Chair

As of mid-November, our stewardship campaign was doing very well; we had received 129 pledges totaling \$393,561. That is \$27,682 more than at the same time last year. We are almost two-thirds of the way to our goal of \$600,000. The average pledge so far is \$3,050.

Your pledges fund the operating budget, allowing us to pay for salaries and benefits, insurance, utilities, and much more, along with the programs and activities and many of the ministries you, the congregation, have told us are important.

It's never too late to pledge! Cards are available on the Welcome Cart, or call the office (727-822-4173) and we'll be happy to send you one.



No Better Gifts Than These!

Betsy Adams, ERD Representative

Do your Christmas shopping on Sunday, December 2, at our Alternative Gift Market, which supports the work of Episcopal Relief and Development through its "Gifts for Life" program. The market will be set up between the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services in the atrium in our new space at 201 Fourth St. N.

What better way to honor someone who has everything than to give a gift that makes a difference to those who have little? We'll have gift cards you can send to the recipients.

You can buy drought-resistant seeds for \$15, a chicken for \$25, farming tools for \$45. Buy a share of a pig for \$20, a mosquito net for \$12. (We'll also have arts and crafts items for sale, made by our children, and we'll decorate a parish Christmas tree that day.)



Come Sing with Legendary Hymn Writer John Bell

Canon Gigi Conner

In January we will welcome as our theologian-in-residence John Bell, one of the most influential hymn writers in the world. We frequently sing his compositions, including "Will You Come and Follow Me" and "This Is the Body of Christ."

John will preach at the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services January 13. From 3 to 5 p.m. that day he will lead a diocesan-wide music workshop, "Why Do God's People Sing?" (\$15) followed by our CAYA service and pot-luck dinner. He will lecture the next three evenings at 7 p.m., no charge; coffee and dessert served: Monday, January 14: "Redeeming the Bible as the People's Book"; Tuesday, January 15: "The Emasculation of Jesus and the Defeminization of the Church"; Wednesday, January 16, "The Hidden Humor in Holy Scripture."

On the evening of Thursday, January 17, we'll have another "Wee Sing," open to the wider community, at the Atlanta Bread Co.

Watch for schedules, details, and sign-up sheets during December and January, and plan to come sing with John Bell!

continued on page 3

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany at St. Peter's

Worship services and musical performances are in the Cathedral.

Friday, November 30: 6:30 p.m. Jesse Tree party/wreathmaking for households with children at 201 Fourth St. N.

Sunday, December 2, between 9 and 11:15 a.m. services: Alternative Christmas Marketplace and tree-trimming at 201 Fourth St. N. See story, Page 2. Decorating of Jesse Tree at 9 a.m. service

4 p.m. Advent procession. Candlelight service with seasonal music.

6 p.m. CAYA service, candlelight Celtic service with prayers from the Iona Community in Scotland, followed by pot-luck supper.

Sunday, December 9: 6 p.m. CAYA service, candlelight Celtic service with prayers from the Iona Community in Scotland, followed by pot-luck supper. 7:30 p.m. Bach's Christmas Oratorio, ticketed event, see back of calendar page.

Sunday, December 16: 6 p.m. CAYA service, candlelight Celtic service with prayers from the Iona Community in Scotland, followed by pot-luck supper. 7:30 p.m. Handel's Messiah, ticketed event, see back of calendar page.

Sunday, December 23: Services at 7:30, 9 and 11:15 a.m. 6 p.m. CAYA service, candlelight Celtic service with prayers from the Iona Community in Scotland, followed by pot-luck supper.

7:30 p.m. O Magnum Mysterium, lessons and carols for Christmas, see story, back of calendar page.

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve.

4 p.m. "Good News! Great Joy!" Candlelight service in the Cathedral "for the young and the young at heart." Children fill the creche. Good service for children who can't stay up late and adults who prefer not to drive after dark.

6 p.m. Choral Eucharist. Music starts at 5:30 p.m. Bishop Smith will preach and celebrate at this service.

11 p.m. Festal Choral Eucharist. Music starts at 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day. Service at 10 a.m.

December 25-28: Cathedral offices closed.

Sunday, December 30: TWO MORNING SERVICES, at 8 and 10 a.m. 6 p.m. CAYA service, candlelight Celtic service with prayers from the Iona Community in Scotland, followed by pot-luck supper.

December 31-January 1: Cathedral offices closed.

Sunday, January 6:

Services at 7:30, 9 and 11:15 a.m. Epiphany celebration at 9 a.m. with Kings Cake at coffee hour afterward. 4 p.m.: **Epiphany procession.** See back of calendar page.

6 p.m. CAYA service, candlelight Celtic service with prayers from the Iona Community in Scotland, followed by pot-luck supper.

Crosswinds, from page 2

Welcome Cart or bring them to the office. There's a box for them under the mail boxes.

* * *

Thanks from the Episcopal Church Women to all who contributed to the great success of the Harvest Gatherings dinner. We raised about \$9,000, which will be used, among other things, to underwrite a number of popular events: the pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday next February; the agape meal on Maundy Thursday; and a picnic next April. The next Harvest Dinner is already on the schedule for September 27, 2008 — mark your calendars now! All women are automatically members of ECW, so please join us at our next meeting, at 9 a.m. December 8 at 201 Fourth St. N to plan next year's events.

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Friendly reminder: Please finish paying **your 2007 stewardship pledge** by December 31. If you're not sure how much remains to be paid, call our financial manager, Ann Michienzi, at (727) 822-4173 and she'll be glad to check your account. Also note: All pledges, contributions, year-end gifts, stocks, and other financial gifts must be postmarked by December 31, if you intend to deduct them from your 2007 income taxes. The office will be closed December 25-31.

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At its November meeting, the chapter approved **a slate of four candidates** to stand for election to the chapter at the Annual Meeting in January: **Susan Churuti, John Hoover, Bill Hoyt, and Marian McGrath.** Petitions for those who wish to seek election by self-nomination are available in the office and are due December 13. The chapter also approved the appointment of Karen Amundrud to fill out the remaining term, through January 2010, of Bryan Shuler, who resigned.

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. Please use the garden door on weekdays.

Mailing address:

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

Telephone:

(727) 822-4173

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(727) 823-2205

E-mail:

stpetersplace@spcathedral.com

Web Site:

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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 ([judystark@yahoo.com](mailto:judy Stark@yahoo.com)); Associate Editor, Mary W. Matthews (mothermary@extremelysmart.com). **Next deadline: December 15, 2007.**

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

Transitions

December Birthdays

1 Jerry Miller Christy Fryer	7 Tom Chase Becky Andrews Jessie Hulbert Dabney T. Smith	13 John McCoy Claudia Moore Kevin Tighe	20 Jan Curtis	Barry Singleton
2 John Hoover	8 Sophia Demiduke	14 Helen Weissberg	21 Paul Natale	28 Dorothy Snidow Eric Beard Caitlin Tighe Sarah Gecan
3 Cary Gums Judd Chapin	9 Frank Turner	15 Chris Nielsen Louisa Thomas	22 Charles D. Plummer	23 Christopher Randolph Gail McCoy Emmy Smith
4 Helen Galletly	10 George Davis Chay McCarthy Sheree Graves	16 Gretchen Brierley Luke Goodwill	23 Christopher Randolph Gail McCoy Emmy Smith	29 Kelsey Johnson
5 Gary Haines Betty Witko	11 Virgil Feltner Sharon Miller	17 Catina Gordon Diane May	24 Carole Cowan	30 Nancy Thomas Connor Crosby
		18 David Andrews	25 Harry Sauers	31 Grace Aylesworth Barbara Abbott
			26 Natalie Paul	
			27 Tony Gecan	

December Anniversaries

1 Don and Doris Jenkins	4 Gene and Holly Haines	13 Richard and Deborah Oster	28 John and Marcie Lipscomb	30 Darrow and Pam Neves
2 Virgil and Carolyn Feltner	7 Eddy and Penny Burns	27 Bill and Kally Harvard Bill and Mary Lou Keeler	30 Ralph and Kathy Hancock	31 Ric and Carolyn Randall

Music in December

We'll have plenty of seasonal music this month at the Cathedral.

* The Advent Procession, 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 2: The first carol service of the season expresses the themes of longing and hope, anticipation and wonder. Music, readings, a dramatic procession from darkness to light. No tickets required.

* Bach's Christmas Oratorio, 7:30

p.m. Sunday, December 9: Soloists, choirs and orchestra conducted by music director Edward Barbieri perform this "operatic expression of faith" with some of the greatest music of the baroque. Tickets: \$20; students and seniors, \$12.

* Handel's Messiah, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 16: Back by popular demand after last year's stunning sell-out performance! Choirs, soloists and

orchestra conducted by Edward Barbieri. Tickets: \$20; students and seniors, \$12.

(For these two events combined tickets are available: \$35 or \$22 for students and seniors.)

* O Magnum Mysterium, 7:30

p.m. Sunday, December 23: choirs and organ perform a feast of popular carols, readings and music for Christmastide by candlelight. No tickets required.

Friday Night at the Movies

Here are the movies for Friday nights in December. Films are shown at 7 p.m. in the atrium in our new space at 201 Fourth St. N. Free popcorn!

For details, check bulletin boards.

December 7: *Overlord* (United Kingdom, 1975). A young British soldier's anxious days before D-Day.

December 14: *The Queen* (United Kingdom, 2006): Helen Mirren plays Elizabeth II in this contemporary look at the monarchy, the prime minister and the death of Princess Diana.



December 21: *Whistle Down the Wind* (United Kingdom, 1971). Three children find "Jesus" living in the barn. Starring a young Hayley Mills and Alan Bates.



December 28: No movie.