



CROSSTOWN

February 2008

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

Our New Building Expands to Three Stories

Pat Wahlen, Building Committee Chair

St. Peter's new building will be a three-story structure of approximately 50,000 square feet, not the single-story structure we announced earlier.

"We came to realize that the space we originally planned for our needs really wasn't enough," building committee chair Pat Wahlen said.

There will be about 30,000 square feet on the second and third floors. We'll use part of the second floor for

our needs, and lease out the rest of the second floor and all of the third.

Other factors that played into the decision:

— A shortage of office space in downtown St. Petersburg. That should make our space desirable to tenants. The rental income will cover the mortgage payments and provide a revenue stream for the Cathedral.

— Our hope that the diocese will

lease at least part of the space in order to have a presence in St. Petersburg. We are already in talks with Bishop Dabney Smith about how that might work.

— Low construction and labor costs now. The downturn in the economy means contractors are eager for work and willing to make deals that benefit us.

— We always planned to eventually

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Together, Let's Keep a Faithful Lent

The Very Rev. Dr. Russell L. Johnson

Lent this year comes as early as is possible on the church calendar. We've hardly packed away the Christmas decorations when it's time to shift gears from the season of joyous celebration to one of reflection and repentance. If your gears are grinding a bit, well, so are mine.

One way to start preparing ourselves for this season of Lent is to turn to page 265 in the Book of Common Prayer. Read the invitation to the observance of a holy Lent. We are asked to spend some time in self-examination and repentance; in prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and in reading and meditating on God's holy Word. That's a pretty full plate! You might want to begin by starting each day naming five things for which you are thankful. Some days that will be easy. Some days it will be hard. That's the point.

Lent comes at a very busy time in our life together. The old buildings are coming down and we look forward to breaking ground on the new. The search will begin for my successor. We begin to make long-term plans for who we are and how we want to weave ourselves into the life of the community around us.

With all this activity, I think some intentional quiet time is called for to re-nourish us, to strengthen us for the journey ahead, to build us up spiritually for the exciting and challenging tasks we face. Some deliberate stillness, away from the noise and jangle of our daily lives, is important for us to stay focused and stay centered. The silence allows God to speak to us without interruption.

The staff and I will plan a few

"quiet days" for men and women when we can do some searching and try to stay in touch with the parts of ourselves that often are neglected in the rush to get things done, meet, plan, and make decisions. Jesus, during his 40 days in the wilderness, strengthened himself for the work ahead. We should do the same.

This is tough, muscular spiritual work. When we step into the season of Easter on March 23, we will be renewed, refreshed, strengthened, and revitalized, full of vigor, hope, and energy. Blessings on each of you as we walk the way of Lent together.

Be strong, be in God,

Crosswinds

Sunday, February 3, is **Super Bowl Sunday**, and it's also Souper Bowl Sunday. Our youth will stand at the doors with big soup kettles that day, inviting your donations to support our outreach efforts. Please be at least as generous here as you are when you buy drinks and snacks for your Super Bowl party.

* * *

The **Mile of Pennies** jar is now on display at St. Peter's Central. Please drop in your pennies to support the Church Periodical Club, which provides money for books and publications for children from kindergarten through high school. Questions? See Marnie Long, (727) 526-8289.

* * *

We will **baptize new Christians** at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 23. If you seek baptism for yourself or a child, please speak to Canon Conner. We will hold three classes in preparation for baptism, at 10:30 a.m. March 8, 15, and 22.

* * *

If you're approaching **retirement**, newly there, or just starting to think about it . . . join us at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays starting February 19 for a class on this new season in our lives. Led by Dean Johnson, who's about to retire, and Judy Stark, who is closer to it than you think, this group will look at some of the scary issues: money, health, filling up the hours . . . see what the Bible tells us about how God calls on seniors to carry out special tasks (Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah was 89 when God made them the parents of Isaac!) . . . and read Jane Sigloh's book, *Like Trees Walking*, for its insights into the second half of life.

* * *

Thanks to all who donated calendars to our annual collection. We shipped more than 300 to the Port of Newark, where they are given to mariners on longterm shipping routes.

Lent Begins!

Come for pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, February 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. The Episcopal Church Women will host our pancake supper. No charge, but we'll take a freewill offering for Our Daily Bread. At 6:45 p.m. we'll burn the palms to create the ashes that will be used the next day, Ash Wednesday, to make the sign of the cross on our foreheads. Bring your palms from last Palm Sunday.



On **Ash Wednesday**, services will be at 7 a.m.; at 12 noon, a deanery service with Bishop Smith as celebrant and preacher; and at 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period of penitence that leads to Easter.

Getting Rid of the Rubble in Your Life

Canon Gigi Conner

Are you holding on to something that's holding you back? What are you mourning or clinging to: the loss of a job or relationship, dissolution of a marriage, loss of health? Starting Ash Wednesday, we will have containers in the Cathedral and in the office where you can write on a piece of paper the "rubble" in your life that you're hanging on to but are ready to be rid of.

At all services the weekend of February 9-10 — the first Sunday in Lent — we will carry those containers outside in procession and place them in the rubble of our old buildings. They will be carted away along with the rubble of those buildings. We symbolically let go in order to move on.

Give some prayerful thought to the rubble you're hauling around, and prepare to let it go and free yourself from its weight and emotional burden.



Dean To Retire

Dean Johnson has announced his intention to retire, effective December 31.

In a letter to the congregation January 18, the wardens praised Russell for his leadership, his preaching and teaching, and his success in finding an anonymous donor who has pledged \$2.7-million to our capital campaign. In addition, "Russell and Judith have showered us with their love, good humor, hospitality, and generosity. They are beloved friends who will always have a place in our hearts."

The Chapter has offered Dean Johnson a pre-retirement sabbatical, beginning July 1, to be financed out of our endowment fund. We will also pay his health insurance until he turns 65 next August.

In the months ahead we will plan fond and festive ways to say farewell to the Johnsons. Our remaining time together, the wardens said, should be "not one long goodbye, but a special time of joy in sharing our lives, our work, our prayers and our worship."

Goals We Can All Work Toward

Betsy Adams, ERD Coordinator

As part of our ongoing commitment to Episcopal Relief and Development, we will have Lenten booklets available beginning February 3. This year's booklet invites you to explore the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as opportunities for loving and serving our neighbors around the world.

Endorsed in 2000 by 191 nations, the MDGs are eight goals for halving extreme poverty by 2015. In 2006, the Episcopal Church voted to make the MDGs its top mission priority.

The Presiding Bishop has declared the First Sunday in Lent — February 10 — as Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday. ERD is the church's international agency to provide immediate relief in time of disaster and longterm renewal and economic development assistance. Please keep its work in your prayers. Donation envelopes are available at the Welcome Cart.

For more information on Episcopal Relief and Development you can visit the ERD web site at <http://www.er-d.org>.



Prayer Breakfast, Chapel Center Update

Vance Wegner, Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew welcomes all to its annual Prayer Breakfast at 8 a.m. Saturday, February 2, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 401 Fifth St. N.

The morning begins with a joint Episcopal-Lutheran service of Holy Communion. Then the brothers will serve their legendary hearty breakfast.

The speaker is the Rev. Denise Gray Guinta, a member of Bishop Smith's staff who is in charge of campus ministries at the University of South Florida. Members of the brotherhood participated in a work day in December at the Chapel Center, helping to tear down ceilings and insulation, rip up carpet, and clear out old furniture and junk. Pastor Denise is overseeing the refurbishing of the center and expects to start regular worship services and other activities there shortly.

All are welcome: men and women, Episcopalians and Lutherans, and especially all you "Episco-Bulls," USF alumni! Tickets are \$5 at the door.



Help Create Birthday Bags

During Lent we will gather Birthday Bags to help children who live in shelters celebrate their birthdays. In a festive gift bag, compile the following: an 8-inch disposable baking pan; box of cake mix; can of frosting; birthday candles; 8 napkins and 8 paper plates; and a Beanie Baby for the birthday child. (All the bags must be the same so no child gets more or less.) Bring filled bags to the office no later than Palm Sunday, March 16. We'll deliver them to the Salvation Army One-Stop Center, which we support, where they'll be given out over the year.

Three Stories, from Page 1:

expand from one story to three. Doing it now greatly reduces our inconvenience and disruption.

— Changes in city codes and ordinances that might make it impossible to add floor later.

Demolition of the office buildings and Parish Hall is complete, and the five-story Center for Ministry will be gone by March.

"We estimate that the two additional floors will cost \$3-million," Pat said. "But the cash flow from leasing out about 19,000 square feet of space to tenants should cover that. We've talked to people who are knowledgeable about the office market in Pinellas County and their conservative estimates are that we can lease out high-quality office space very easily."

"We know we are stepping out in faith to do this, and I can assure you that the Chapter took very seriously the magnitude of what we are about to do," Pat said. "We're confident that this is financially responsible, and that the result will be sufficient space for ourselves now and in the future."



Friday Night at the Movies

Eddy Burns

Here's the February schedule for Friday Night at the Movies. Films are shown free at 7 p.m. at St. Peter's Central; free popcorn. Bring your friends!

February 1: *That Hamilton Woman* (UK, 1941)

February 8: *Vitus* (Germany, 2006)

February 15: *Away from Her* (Canada, 2006)

February 22: *Gloomy Sunday* (Germany/Hungary 2002):

February 29: *Becket* (UK, 1964)

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

February Birthdays

1 Charles Beck Bob MacDonald Patty Hollingsworth	12 Pat Holly Marjorie Lockwood Noel Smith	Debbie Robinson Pam Neves
2 Alberta Neathery	14 Monnie Moore Barbara Rex John Beck	21 Bari Bryant
4 Johnathan Ellis	15 Elizabeth Howlett Charles Webb	23 John Ellis Dorothy Longstaff Marsha Wegner
5 Jack Wilt Richard Alford	16 Brad Hirvela Ian Leavengood Adrienne Haines	24 Marilyn Polson
6 Kathy Hancock Roberta Yancey Kate Munkittrick Courtney Crosby	17 Ed Shamas Savanna Andrews	25 Barbara Martin Gary Slone Kim Parsons Jessica Grimshaw
8 Marge Boyer	18 Jim Urban	26 Marianne Hallas Maxine Lee
11 Alice Meyer Kathy Paul	20 Bill Barlow	27 Marsha Fetchik Shirley Earle Helga Andrews
12 Mike Grimshaw Chris Little Mari Reive		28 Richard Oster Audrey Hamm

February Anniversaries

5 Neil and Susan Savage	14 Jack and Kit Clarke Mario and Judith Loehrer Stephen and Elizabeth Schroeder
6 Michael and Carol Piper	19 Ron and Cynthia Sinclair
9 Bill and Bev Lacy	
10 Gary and Suzanne Haines	

Renewal of vows: Couples who wish to renew their vows are invited to do so at 6:45 p.m. Thursday, February 14, in St. Mary's Chapel. A reception will follow at St. Peter's Central.

Learn All About St. Peter's

What's the Episcopal Church all about? What's St. Peter's all about? Starting on February 17, join a newcomers' class (or a refresher class if you've been here a while) to learn all about us. Leaders: Dick Abbott, Betsy Adams, and Judy Hamm. Come to one class, come to any or all. We'll meet on the second floor at St. Peter's Central after the 9 a.m. service.

Here's the lineup:

- February 17: What We Believe: The Creeds and Baptism
- February 24: How We Worship: The Elements of Eucharist
- March 2: Tour of the Cathedral, History of St. Peter's
- March 9: Christian Formation: Prayer, Bible Study, and Action
- March 16: Palm Sunday, no class
- March 23: Easter Day, no class
- March 30: Christian Formation — "What Is Ministry?"
- April 6: Getting Connected — A Kind of "Who's Who"
- April 13: Instructed Eucharist

Music for February Sundays

Mark your calendar for these glorious music presentations in February:

French Impressionism in Song, 4 p.m. Sunday, February 10. We explore the beautiful world of French impressionistic song with renowned soprano Michelle Giglio, accompanied by Edward Barbieri on the piano. Tick-

ets are \$15, or \$10 for seniors and students.

A Celebration of the King of Instruments, 4 p.m. Sunday, February 24. Cathedral organists Edward Barbieri and John Mason offer a concert, featuring Poulenc's Organ Concerto. Tickets are \$15, or \$10 for seniors and students.

Pledge Numbers on the Rise! Susan Churuti, Stewardship Chair

The 2008 stewardship drive has received 194 pledges totaling \$522,442. That is an increase of \$18,522 over last year, or 4 percent. Eighty parishioners increased their pledges and 77 sustained their pledge amount. Eight new pledges were received. The average annual pledge is \$2,693. Weekly average pledge income increased to \$10,046.96 from \$9,690.77.

Our goal was \$600,000. We are

currently making "friendly reminder" calls to about 60 parishioners who are longtime committed pledgers whose cards probably got lost on their desks encouraging them to pledge. We're confident we'll achieve our goal.

If you haven't made your pledge, you can pick up a pledge envelope at the Welcome Cart, or call the office (727-822-4173) and financial manager Ann Michienzi (say "McKenzie") will be happy to send you an envelope.