

What the New Year Brings: Building the Future

The Very Rev. Dr. Russell L. Johnson

What will this New Year bring us? Will we make lasting peace between Jew and Palestinian, or in Iraq, or in Afghanistan? Will we find cures for cancer or AIDS? Will we have another quiet hurricane season or an onslaught of hellish storms?

We know that before the year is over we'll have elected a new president, and much of this year will be devoted to campaign rhetoric and exchanges of nasty charges. Let's hope we can survive it.

By the end of 2008 our new space will begin to look like a real building and we'll be planning the ways we're going

to work and learn and serve others and break bread together in those new spaces. A year from now we won't be the same congregation we are today. A building program has that effect on congregations, mark my words.

The best part is that we get to travel the way together. Nothing is more important than our shared love of God and our love and caring for one another. Given those, we can manage to deal with whatever comes, bad or good.

By the time you receive this you will have heard much about the visit of our theologian-in-residence, the Rev. John

Bell. I hope you'll mark the week of January 13-17 on those new calendars and be with us as often as you can. (See the story on Page 2 for the details of John's visit, and limber up your vocal cords: He's going to teach us to SING!)

Also circle January 27: our annual meeting, when we affirm the slate of new Chapter members, celebrate our accomplishments, and look to our future.

Throughout this new year, be strong, be in God.

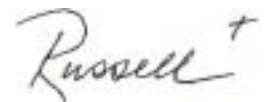



photo by Jim DeLa

Demolition begins!

Heavy equipment made short work of our existing buildings starting December 10. Demolition will continue through February. Details about the demolition work and progress toward our new buildings, Page 3.

photo by Sheree Graves



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Hymn Writer
Extraordinaire!
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Crosswinds

Yes! There will be pancakes! **Lent starts early this year** — the first week of February — and even though we're without a parish hall, the Episcopal Church Women will sponsor our traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 5. Watch for details about times and prices. We eat pancakes on "Fat Tuesday" — Mardi Gras — to use up all the fats and sweets before the penitential season of Lent, which begins the next day — Ash Wednesday, February 6. Bishop Smith will be the celebrant and preacher at the noon service; watch for details.

* * *

What do five goats, seven chickens, three pigs, four sets of seeds and tools, eight ducks and geese, a microcredit loan, and five health-care packages add up to? A sampling of the love that we at St. Peter's have given the world through our Alternative Gift Market last month.

In its interim report to General Convention, the House of Deputies has noted that giving to **Episcopal Relief and Development** has increased dramatically, and we are a part of that! During 2007 St. Peter's has given over \$7,000 of love. Love that responds and rebuilds after disaster. Love that builds a sustainable future. Love that reaches out to a hungry and hurting world.

* * *

Watch for the new **Mile of Pennies** jar in the office, and please drop your pennies in it! The Mile of Pennies was established in 1988 by the Church Periodical Club. That club was founded by church women in 1888 to provide Bibles and printed materials to missionaries, seminarians, Indians and others, mainly in the American West (they were delivered by Wells Fargo stagecoach). Now the Mile of Pennies (MOP) provides grants to serve the book needs of children from kindergarten through high

Sing with One Voice with John Bell Canon Gigi Conner

Please plan to join us the week of January 13-17 as we welcome our theologian-in-residence John Bell, widely regarded as one of the most influential living hymn writers in the English-speaking world. His name may be unfamiliar to you, but his music is not: We frequently sing his compositions, including "Will You Come and Follow Me" and "This Is the Body of Christ."

John, 58, a minister in the Church of Scotland, is a longtime colleague of our first theologian-in-residence, the Rev. J. Philip Newell. John operates the liturgy/publishing group in Glasgow, Scotland, for the Iona Community, where Philip served as warden of Iona Abbey. The Iona Community is committed to seeking new ways of bringing the Gospel of Christ to today's world.



"Words and music . . . shape what we think, what we believe, and ultimately what we do as those who follow Jesus Christ," John says. "Believe in the voice God has given you. It is the voice of an apprentice angel."

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 charge). At 6 p.m. he will attend our CAYA service and potluck dinner. He will lecture the next three evenings at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral. Coffee and dessert will be served at no charge.

* 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."

At 7 p.m. Thursday, January 17, we'll have another "Wee Sing" at the Atlanta

Bread Co. This gathering, which will be open to the wider community, offers another opportunity for John to do some teaching. We'll sing some music we know and some we don't, and we'll join in "one voice, one song." (Charge: \$10 for coffee/dessert/tip.)

John leads "Wee Sings" and "Big Sings," conducts workshops, and leads worship all over the world. After



his visit with us he moves on to the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. He is in such demand that we had to book his visit two years in advance, so it's quite an honor to have him here.

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

"I make no great claims for the power of words and music, except that within the worship of the church they shape what we think, what we believe, and ultimately what we do as those who follow Jesus Christ."

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Your Pledge Will Take Us Over the Top!

Susan Churuti, Stewardship Chair

More than \$465,000 in pledges has come in during our fall campaign. That takes us more than two-thirds of the way to our goal of \$600,000.

As of early December (these figures will be outdated by the time you read this), 75 parishioners increased their pledges and 19 decreased them. Seven new pledges have been received. The average pledge has increased from \$2,737 to \$2,813. Our weekly average income from pledges has increased from \$8,317 to \$8,926.

By contrast, the average pledge nationally in the Episcopal Church in 2006, the most recent year for which statistics are available, was \$2,088, up from \$1,979 the year before.

Just like your household, St. Peter's has to live on the income we have. We can't rely on credit cards (our line of credit) or our endowment to finance our operating budget. And the only source of that operating income is each one of us. There's no magic bullet, no secret pot of gold. The extent to which we can do mission and ministry is measured in the financial commitment each of us makes to the church.

If you haven't pledged yet (or aren't sure if you did), please call financial manager Ann Michienzi (say "McKenzie") in the church office at 727-822-4173, and she'll be glad to check the records for you.

Thanks to all of you who have pledged. You make the work of St. Peter's possible. Everyone's pledge makes a difference in our faith community!



Worth a Thousand Words: Demolition Begins!

Pat Wahlen, Building Committee Chair

The pictures on the front cover say it all. On December 10 the walls of our old buildings came tumbling down. We're on our way!

You may be wondering why the pile of rubble seemed to grow higher as the days went by and wasn't trucked away. Kimmins Construction, the demolition contractor, deliberately built a five-story pile of rubble. That allowed workers to start demolition of the five-story Cathedral Center for Ministry without bringing in a crane.

Our estimate now is that demolition of all the buildings should be completed by mid-February.

Bill Harvard, our architect, is drawing the plans now and we'll put them out for bid to general contractors. A team headed by Marianne Hallas and Lela Garnett met with a kitchen designer to plan what that space will look like.

In other building news, our executive restrooms are in place and functioning.

Most congregations never experience a major building project. You are all to be congratulated for your enthusiastic support, your patience, and your flexibility. We'll be a changed congregation before this is all over. Amazing how our Lord works, isn't it?

Crosswinds, from page 2

school. We received an MOP grant of \$699.50 to buy new Bibles for kindergarten through high school classes. A mile of pennies, by the way, is \$844.80. Please drop your change in the jar and watch it grow. Information: Marnie Long, (727) 526-8289.

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Nametags are back! The tags got soaked in a downpour in September. New ones have been reprinted and are hanging on the board on the porch on Sundays. Don't have a tag? Fill in the form on the Welcome Cart and we'll get you one.

* * *

The sidewalk has been smoothed out. City crews relaid the hex blocks around our building to eliminate the hills and valleys and broken blocks on which some of us had stumbled in recent weeks. It's still a good idea to watch your step, but this is a vast improvement.



Friday Night at the Movies

Eddy Burns

Here's the movie lineup for January. Films are shown at 7 p.m. in our new space at 210 Fourth St. N. Free popcorn!

January 4: After the Wedding
(Denmark, 2006)

January 11: The Namesake (India,
2006)

January 18: Casablanca (USA, 1942):
Bogie, Ingrid Bergman, "We'll
always have Paris," "As Time Goes
By." One of the all-time greats.

January 25: Avenue Montaigne
(France, 2006)

For details, check our web site (spcathedral.net) or check bulletin boards at church.

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:
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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

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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); Associate Editor, Mary W. Matthews (mothermary@extremelysmart.com). **Next deadline: January 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

January Birthdays

1 David Hill Bill Hough Jerry Merchant	13 Lois Atkins	21 Oriana Beard
2 Ansee Long	14 Betty Shamas	22 Sarah Margaret McBride
3 Nancy Dolson	15 Mark Campbell	23 Don Wright
8 Michael Robbins Fay Nielsen Ian Beard	16 Bethia Caffery Roberta Poellein Sylvia Walbolt Brett Salsman	25 Phil Bowman Jan Strimer
9 Sarah Howlett	17 Ginny Rowell Randy Ramsey	26 Marcy Crosby
10 Maggie Burnsed	19 Georgina Wootten- Case	27 George Wilsey
11 Jim Trubey Marisa Johnson	20 Tom Amundrud Alex Ramsey	28 Bill Wheatland Paul Bonneau
		31 Bob Blanc Lela Garnett

January Anniversaries

8 Al and Noel Smith	22 Bill and Silvia Hoyt
12 Tim and Pat Holly	26 Phil and Louisa Thomas



Prayer Breakfast with the Bishop Vance Wegner, Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Bishop Dabney Smith will be the speaker at the annual Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, at 8 a.m. Saturday, February 2.

All are welcome at this event — men and women, adults and youth, Episcopalians and others. It will be at Trinity Lutheran Church, 401 Fifth St. N.



The morning begins with a joint Episcopal-Lutheran service of Holy Eu-

charist. Then the brotherhood will serve their legendary hearty breakfast, followed by Bishop Smith's talk.

Tickets are \$5, available in the office or after Sunday services early in the new year (watch for announcements). The offertory will be given to a local charity.

The morning's events should conclude by 10:30 a.m.

Want more information? Frank Turner at (727)527-3104 or Vance Wegner at (727) 525-5516 will be glad to talk to you.

Annual Meeting: Elections and Updates

Our Annual Meeting is at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, January 27. Note that there is NO 11:15 A.M. SERVICE THAT DAY.

We will hear reports, get a briefing on the building project, and affirm the slate of candidates to the Chapter, the lay board of directors of the Cathedral. Candidates are Susan Churuti, John Hoover, Bill Hoyt, and Marian McGrath.

The congregation will also be asked to approve an amendment to the Cathedral Charter to bring it into alignment with the bylaws. The Charter has not been updated since 1983. The amendment says that, in compliance with diocesan canons, the Chapter must number no fewer than five members, and it deletes references to a maximum number of members.

January Events: Clip and Save!

January is always a busy month at St. Peter's, with some different service times and lots of briefings leading up to our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27. Here's the lineup from the end of December through January. Plan to attend these gatherings so you're plugged in to what's going on.

Sunday, December 30: TWO services: 8 and 10 a.m.

Sunday, January 6: Epiphany . We'll celebrate Epiphany at the 9 a.m. service and enjoy a King Cake at coffee hour. **4 p.m.:** Epiphany Procession, carols and music to end the festive season.

Sunday, January 13 10:30 a.m.: Meet the Candidates Meet the slate of candidates for three-year terms on the Chapter, the lay board of directors.

Sunday, January 20 10:30 a.m.: Budget briefing Hear how we did financially in 2007 and see what the budget looks like for 2008

Sunday, January 27 NO 11:15 a.m. service today! 10:30 a.m.: Annual Meeting (see story at left)