



# CROSSTOWN

July 2008

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

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## Now the Journey with God Continues

The Very Rev. Dr. Russell L. Johnson

Thank you, thank you, thank you! The past weeks have been filled with kind words and goodbyes, and I am filled with nothing but gratitude for you and our times together.

The last four years have been some of the richest in my life, primarily because of being with you all. I hope you know how honored I have been to be your dean and rector. It is a moment in time that I shall savor and relish for the rest of my life.

Now the journey with God continues. Toward the end of July, Judith and I will move back to Lexington, Ky., where we formerly lived. The Right Rev. Stacy Sauls, the bishop of the Diocese of Lex-

ington, has asked me to come and serve him in a part-time capacity. He is due to leave on sabbatical in September, and the canon to the ordinary in that diocese is returning to parish ministry. There is a need in the diocesan office for someone who is familiar with the diocese — as I am from my former time there — to step in and provide some help.

From my perspective, this is a nice way for God to help me gently slide into complete retirement while still living into my calling as a servant of God. I'd like to work part-time for about two years and explore during that time how best to live out the remainder of my life. I emphasized to the bishop that this is part-

time. I told him: "There are 12 golf courses around Lexington and I've only played seven of them so far."

I know the future for you all is bright. You are smart enough to face the inevitable hard times. You have strong leaders and you are fearless and hopeful. Love will carry you through, for in truth, God is love, and where true love is found, God himself is there. God is right here in your midst. I will be watching and praying and hoping for you and all that you do together in his name.

Be strong, be in God,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell" with a small cross symbol above the end of the name.

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## Construction Starts This Month!

Pat Wahlen, Building Committee Chair

We're on schedule to start construction on our new building on July 15.

We've spent the last few weeks obtaining permits, completing drawings, and getting bids. It's amazing how much goes on behind the scenes before the actual work starts.

The building committee is working with our architect to select interior finishes: flooring, doors, lighting, countertop materials.

Our budget contains no money for fixtures, fittings, and furniture for the new building. We estimate those will cost another \$500,000, and we will be

turning to you, our congregation, in the months ahead for your support to outfit the building. We expect it to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2009.

It's smart to make some much-needed improvements in the infrastructure of the Cathedral while we are doing similar work on the new building. So we are planning to tie in the new building's fire pump and install fire sprinklers in the Cathedral. We will also tie in the air-conditioning piping from the new building to the Cathedral and install a more efficient chiller.

We have decided to hold off on some landscaping improvements we had

planned to make on the Second Avenue N side of the Cathedral. We will incorporate plans for that area in the landscaping plans for the new building and do this all at once so it's part of a coordinated plan.

It will be an exciting day when the heavy equipment starts to roll, workers are on the site, and clouds of dust are blowing. That day is coming soon!

Questions? Comments? Please e-mail Pat Wahlen at [pwahlen@msn.com](mailto:pwahlen@msn.com) or senior warden Sheree Graves at [shereegraves@asgraves.net](mailto:shereegraves@asgraves.net). We are always happy to talk to you about the building project.

## Crosswinds

The Cathedral office will be closed Friday, July 4, and Monday, July 7, and there will be no services or activities those days. We'll re-open on Tuesday, July 8.

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**Episcopal Church Women** will meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 12, at St. Peter's Central to plan the fall Harvest Festival, scheduled for Saturday, September 27, at the Mirror Lake Shuffleboard Court. (Yes, that's the same location as last year.) At our silent auction we'll again be offering "gatherings" and "experiences" rather than "stuff," given our lack of storage space. Start thinking about the gatherings you might like to host. Sandy Hoover is glad to tell you more.

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A friendly summer reminder to **keep your pledge up** . . . and another reminder that we can make it easy for you. We do offer automatic checking-account debit service or automatic credit-card charges. Please speak to Ann Michienzi (say "McKenzie"), our financial manager, if you'd like to set up either of these so your pledge is automatically deducted and sent to the church.

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Our annual subscription drive for **Episcopal Life** continues through July 14. Episcopal Life is the independent monthly newspaper of the Episcopal Church. It's a great way to stay on top of what's happening nationally. A one-year subscription is \$14.35. Make a check payable to St. Peter's, write "Episcopal Life" in the memo line, and either give it to Judy Stark or send it to the office. Sample copies are available for your perusal at the Welcome Cart.

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**Pop Star Music Camp** for kids ages 7 to 15 is July 21-25 and July 28-August 1. Led by our organ scholar, John Mason, kids will write

## Come Climb Our Family Tree!

Canon Gigi Conner

Read and discuss the story of Abraham and Sarah's family tree on six Wednesday nights: July 9, 16, and 23, and August 3, 20, and 27. We'll meet at the Atlanta Bread Co., 179 First Ave. N, at 6:30 p.m. for those who want to get a bite of supper, then start at 7, ending by 8:05 p.m.

These are the stories from Genesis of Abraham and Sarah and Hagar; Isaac and Rebekah; and Esau and Jacob, Leah and Rachel. (It's nearly as complicated as some of our own blended families!) We'll examine these stories of our ancestors through a literary lens: What's the plot? (Some of it borders on soap opera — or Jerry Springer!) Why is it written this way? Who's telling the story and what difference does that make? What do we learn about families that might help me see my family (of origin, choice or adoption) in a different way?

Readings will be posted at the web site ([www.spcathedral.net](http://www.spcathedral.net)) starting July 1, or pick up a copy at the Welcome Cart. Please let the office know if you plan to come so we can have plenty of chairs and other materials. Parking in the BayWalk garage is \$1.



## July 19: We Take Off for "the D.R."

Andi Gorton

In a little more than two weeks — July 19 — our mission team takes off for our 10th annual trip to the Dominican Republic.

It's strange how these things work out. We had already decided to ask you for financial support this year, rather than asking you to buy craft supplies that we'd transport to "the D.R." in big suitcases. Now, of course, the additional fees the airlines are charging for luggage would make that extremely expensive.

Many of you have generously responded to our appeal for funds so we can buy the supplies we need when we arrive in Santiago. Thank you, thank you. If others would like to contribute to our work, we will be deeply grateful. Your generosity allows us to buy paper, crayons, markers, scissors, stickers, and other supplies for the children at Vacation Bible School.

We play with the children, help them with daily VBS craft projects, sing songs, and meet fellow spirit-filled Episcopalians. The Dominicans do the teaching.

We have another request for you. Please pray for us daily, now as we are preparing and while we're there. We return July 26.

If you'd like more information about our trip to "the D.R.," please call me at (727) 421-7704, or e-mail me at [adgorton@hotmail.com](mailto:adgorton@hotmail.com).



**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.

## A Look at Our Future: July 6 with Bishop Smith

Susan Churuti and Elaine New  
Discernment Co-Chairs

Bishop Dabney Smith will be here for the 8 and 10 a.m. services Sunday, July 6. He will talk about the clergy leadership at the Cathedral during the interim time while our Discernment Committee is seeking our next dean.

The committee will be officially commissioned that day at the 10 a.m. service. Members are Susan Churuti and Elaine New, co-chairs; Dick Abbott, Karen Amundrud, Bill Barlow, Blanton Garnett, Mary Jo Mastry, Marian McGrath, Paul Meeker, Virginia Rowell, Judy Stark, Jim Stewart, and Emily Williams.

Bishop Smith will give the committee the names of five candidates. The committee will spend the summer and fall learning about them through written questions, phone interviews, visits to them, and visits here by the candidates. The names remain confidential throughout the process. Then the committee will recommend one name to the Chapter, which officially elects the new dean. Bishop Smith has told the committee he would like us to complete the process by December.

The committee plans to circulate a questionnaire to the congregation this summer to learn what you think is important in our next dean. Please watch for details about when and how that will happen, and about other gatherings when the committee can hear from you.

"We're also happy to hear from anyone in the congregation at any time," co-chair Susan Churuti said. "Please don't hesitate to approach one of us one-on-one and let us know what's on your mind."

Meanwhile, you can support the committee in its work and the candidates by including this prayer in your own daily devotions. We will be using it at every worship service from now until a dean is called:

*Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your church, and so guide 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.*



## Dagari Jazz Trio on July 20

Circle Sunday, July 20, on your calendar. At the 10 a.m. service that day, our favorite jazz performers, the Dagari Jazz Trio, will be with us to provide music for the worship service. The group's pianist, Bryan Shuler, is a member of our congregation. (You may know him as a eucharistic minister; lay reader; father of Tristan, Aidan, and Bella; and husband of Kerryanne.) Bring your friends! This is always a popular service and a wonderful midsummer pick-me-up.



## Crosswinds, from page 2

their own songs, sing with a live band, record in a studio, and create a professional photo shoot. Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Cost: \$120 per week; sibling discount available; 50 percent scholarship help available from the ECW (see Sandy Hoover).



## Summer Nights at the Movies

Eddy Burns

Nothing to do on a summer Friday evening? Nonsense! Come join us for our free movie night. Quite a congenial group of regulars has formed for movies and popcorn, and we're saving a seat for you. Show time is 7 p.m. The lineup for the next few weeks:

July 4: No movie; happy fireworks!

July 11: *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Part I.

July 18: *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Part II.

July 25: *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Part III. France, 1998. Six hours total run time, which is why we're breaking it up into three parts. Come for any or all! Young sailor, falsely accused of treason and imprisoned for 18 years, escapes, finds a treasure and a new identity, and takes revenge against those who betrayed him. Swashbuckling romance. Gerard Depardieu stars in this adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' classic tale of love, intrigue and revenge.

August 1: *The Seagull's Laughter* (Iceland/Denmark, 2004). Icelandic diva returns home from America; soon women are asserting their independence and men are mysteriously keeling over. Is the diva a murderer or a love goddess? Great scenery.



## 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.*



## 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](mailto:stpetersplace@spcathedral.com)

## Web Site:

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

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

## July Birthdays

1 Judith Loehrer Marnie Long	12 Carmen Sellas Carol Nelson Bunny Smith	John Miller Carl Robinson
2 Chelley Tighe	13 Jacques Pare	22 Stephen Schroeder
3 Jennifer Moylan	14 Bryan Shuler	23 Carolyn Rymers
4 Helen Bohman Vie Cox Irene Pavese Katherine Gecan	15 Jeanie Locicero Elma Rosenberg Jean Slone Abigail Hoyt	24 Judy Stark
5 Joan Craft	16 Don Jenkins Phyllis Serratore	25 Jane Druba
7 Nicole Jones	17 Dick Abbott Christen Crosby	26 Vance Wegner Millard Neal Buddy Sauter Bee Paris Anne Turner
8 Dede Natale	18 Bev Lacy	27 Jennifer Botsolas Matthew
9 Robert Weissberg Nancy Randolph	19 Mimi Aangeenbrug Clyde Nabe	28 Bob Campbell Susan Savage
10 Carol Phillips Susan Regan Sharon George Tom Patterson	20 Chuck Martin	30 Marv Atkins Arthur Riddlesworth Fran Parsons Charlie Nielsen
11 Barbara Applegate Lizabeth Moody	21 Joanie Andrews Deanna Michael	31 Frank Knight

## July Anniversaries

1 Joe and Myra Witko	14 Frank and Camille Knight
3 Bill and Melissa Barlow	Chuck and Kim Parsons
4 A.D. and Clair Frazier	15 Frank and Anne Turner
5 Bob and Cindy Campbell	16 Gary and Jean Slone
8 Wayne and Carol Eich Gary Patterson and John Veasey Michael and Penny Robbins Andy and Warren Skinner-Denning	25 George and Mary Scott
10 John and Kirsten Miller	26 Jerry and Sharon Miller
11 Kip Corriveau and Lena Georges	30 Rich and Susan McBride
	31 James and Suzanne Earle

## Moving Ahead on the Baptist Sanctuary

### Sheree Graves, Senior Warden

With the support of St. Petersburg Preservation Inc., we are moving ahead with plans to demolish the back end of the Baptist Sanctuary and are seriously considering creating a columbarium, with both indoor and outdoor spaces.

This seems to be a gracious "win-win" solution to the problem with which we have struggled for 18 years, ever since we bought the property from our former neighbors, the First Baptist Church.

We have agreed to preserve the front of the sanctuary, with its Greek Temple-style columns, and a 40-foot deep section of the building, including the sidewalls, roof, and stair towers that rise into the balcony. The back end will be torn down, and in its place we plan to create a gated worship garden with benches, landscaping, and a water feature such as a fountain or waterfall.

The preservationists' blessing was

key. City officials indicated they would approve no plans that the preservationists did not support. We are now working with the city to get fast-track approval for demolition.

As to the question of what we'll do with the space: We are seriously investigating creating a columbarium, with both indoor and outdoor niches. Columbariums in similar historic buildings are common in other cities. This would be open to Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians. Our research shows there is a strong demand for columbarium spaces in this area. The sale of niches would provide a long-term revenue stream for the Cathedral.

At its June meeting the Chapter voted to create a committee to raise the estimated \$1-million it will take to remove asbestos, tear down the back end of the sanctuary, and make the front sec-

tion usable. The church will not go into debt to do this. This will require partners or gifts.

The Chapter also voted to take the Baptist Sanctuary off the market, an indication of the seriousness with which we are pursuing the columbarium proposal.

St. Peter's bought the Baptist Sanctuary 18 years ago, along with a five-story classroom building, for \$1-million. The classroom building, which once housed our bookstore, was torn down last winter to prepare for our new building. But the sanctuary was a designated local historic site, which meant City Council had the right to prevent us from demolishing it unless we came up with a plan they approved and financial backing to support it. The proposal to save the front and demolish the back is a compromise that we, the city, and the preservation community can all live with.