



# CROSSTOWN

July 2009

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

## Now The Work Begins: Strategies and Goals for St. Peter's

Judy Stark, Chapter Member

Your Chapter gathered in retreat the weekend of June 12-13 to begin developing a strategic plan for the Cathedral.

"We need to set specific, measurable, attainable goals, then start working to achieve them, and hold ourselves accountable," Dean Morris said.

The group began its work by listing our realities: the simple facts about life at St. Peter's these days. Among them:

- \* decreased membership (attendance at services has fallen by half since 1992 and the number of baptized members by a third in the same period);
- \* fewer people pledging (down by a third since 1996), and fewer people giving more;
- \* increased population density and diversity in our neighborhood;
- \* lack of programs, especially in the

areas of education, outreach, and Sunday school;

- \* disengagement by some members;
- \* technology challenges;
- \* competition from other activities for members' time and effort;
- \* need for additional funds to complete our new building;

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## Follow the News from General Convention

The 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church is July 8-17 in Anaheim, Calif. More than 10,000 deputies, visitors, exhibitors, guests, and media representatives are expected. The theme is "ubuntu," a Zulu Zhosha word meaning "I in

you and you in me," or "I am because we are," emphasizing our dependence upon one another.

That theme is expressed in the logo, shown here.



Our diocese has launched a new section on its web site to bring you news and information about what Bishop Smith and our deputation are doing. Watch a video primer about convention and check out various links to view

pending resolutions, reports, and more at [www.episcopalswfl.org/general\\_convention](http://www.episcopalswfl.org/general_convention). That's also where members of our diocesan deputation will be blogging. Check every day for their personal take on what's happening on the convention floor.

Here are some other web sites where you can get updates on what's happening: The official General Convention web site is at [www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009.htm)

Episcopal Life Online, [www.episcopalchurch.org/elife](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/elife), then click on the link for convention news. The "house organ," independent news site of the Episcopal Church.

The official "media hub" is at [www.episcopalchurch.org/gchub](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gchub), offering a calendar, video stream, Flickr photos, legislative tracker, Twitter feed, and Facebook content.

Episcopal Cafe, <http://episcopalcafe.com/>, a progressive take on things.

The Living Church, [www.livingchurch.org](http://www.livingchurch.org), a conservative approach.

Center Aisle, [www.centeraisle.net](http://www.centeraisle.net), a centrist site from the Diocese of Virginia.

Two members of the St. Peter's community will be in Anaheim. The Rev. Canon Gigi Conner and Judy Stark are the first alternate clergy and lay delegates, respectively.

### INSIDE:

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**Adios! Our team heads for "the D.R.," Page 4**

**Pot luck with the Fisherfolk, Page 3**

## Crosswinds

The Cathedral office will be closed **Friday, July 3**, in honor of the Fourth of July. Please note that there is no 5 p.m. service on Saturday, July 4. Enjoy the fireworks as we celebrate the birthday of our country!

\* \* \*

**Summer hours** at the Cathedral office: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

\* \* \*

**Newcomers are invited** to a brunch at noon July 26 at St. Peter's Central. Watch the mail for your invitation, or speak to Canon Conner.

\* \* \*

Don't forget about **Baseball with the Bishop**. Order your tickets now for the Rays-Yankees game on Friday, October 2. This is during the last week of regular-season play and could have playoff implications. Besides, it's always great to be at the game when we play the Yankees. Bishop Dabney will be there, along with lots of other Episcopalians from around the Diocese of Southwest Florida. Tickets are \$24 each, of which \$4 goes to our diocesan Episcopal Charities Fund. Sign up at the Welcome Cart. Elizabeth Garnett and Robbie Hasbrouck are chairing the ticket drive.

\* \* \*

Save the date! Circle Saturday, October 3, on your calendar now. **A special ECW "Gathering"** is scheduled for that night at the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club. Our annual fund-raising dinner will celebrate our anniversary year: the 120th anniversary of the founding of St. Peter's, the 110th anniversary of the completion of the sanctuary, and the 40th anniversary of our selection as the diocesan Cathedral. This will be a special night of fun, music and surprises. See you there!

\* \* \*

The **ECW** will celebrate our anniversary year in another way: with a lun-

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## Now the Work Begins

*continued from Page 1*

\* an aging congregation. More than half our congregation is 51 years or older; 27 percent are between the ages of 66 and 80. Just 26 percent are between the ages of 19 and 50.

Then we created a committee structure, assigning all Cathedral ministries to one of five categories: finance, worship, pastoral care, outreach, and education/formation. Chapter members will take on two of those committees as their areas of special interest. (These assignments are still in the works.) They won't run the ministries, they won't attend every meeting of every ministry in their area, but they will touch base from time to time, know what's going on, help to structure good meetings, and be conduits of information.

They will also work with the leaders of those ministries to develop goals that fit into the overall strategic plan. That will be developed in the weeks and months ahead and presented to the congregation at our Annual Meeting in January. By that time many of the activities we need and want to see at St. Peter's should already be up and running.

The purpose of the committee structure is to keep us focused, coordinated, and in better communication with each other. Every ministry needs to be linked with others that are doing similar work to strengthen those areas of ministry. This also gives us a framework in which to ask: What are we doing; is that what we want to be doing; and what else might we do. We want to make the most out of the resources we have and focus our energy where it will have the greatest impact.

The final activity of the weekend was to come up with a vision for St. Peter's: a sentence that says who we are and why we're here, a statement from which ev-



Photo by SHEREE GRAVES

*Work on the exterior of our new building is moving into its final stages. In the next few weeks, watch for the application of brick to the exterior, to blend with the appearance of the Cathedral; and for the installation of windows. We expect the building to be fully enclosed in early August.*

everything we do follows. Here's the vision the Chapter articulated:

*St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral: renewing our commitment to be the heart of spiritual growth in downtown St. Petersburg.*

The quick phrase we adapted out of that sentence is this: *Be part of the heart!* That's how we can welcome and encourage others to join us in the good work that lies ahead for all of us.

### ST. PETER'S COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

If you don't see your ministry listed here, please speak to Senior Warden Sheree Graves and we'll assign you to an appropriate committee.

<b>FINANCE</b>	<b>PASTORAL CARE</b>	City connections
Stewardship	LEVs	St. Aelred's
Pledge drive	Sunday callers	ECW
Buildings and grounds	Food for the sick	Resurrection House
Capital campaign	Transportation	Peterborough
Marketing/advertising	Bereavement	
Bookstore	Newcomers	<b>EDUCATION/ FORMATION</b>
	Phone tree	Sunday school, both child and adult
<b>WORSHIP</b>	Fellowship	Sisters of the Circle
Altar Guild	Communications	Men's group
Flower Guild	Office volunteers	Young Episcopal Stewards / youth group
Music	Parish nurse	Inquirers' classes / confirmation classes
Acolytes		Theologian-in-residence
Vergers	<b>OUTREACH</b>	Diocesan programs, School for Ministry
Ushers	Our Daily Bread	Movies
LEMs	Dominican Republic mission trips	Education for Ministry
Lectors, lay readers	Disaster relief	
St. Veronica's Guild (needlepoint)	Episcopal Relief and Development	
	Celebrate Outreach!	
	Light dinners	

## Fisherfolk Want to Reel You In

### Bob Campbell

The Fisherfolk welcome you to a summer potluck on Saturday, July 18, at St. Peter's Central. Hospitality starts at 6 p.m. and we'll plan to eat at 6:30. We suggest salads, fruits, and other light summer fare, but whatever you bring will be welcome. Given the heat, shorts and flip-flops will be the outfits of choice.

All are welcome, particularly those who are new to the St. Peter's family who are looking to meet others. We're eager to meet you!

A longtime Cathedral member, the late Sonny Aylesworth, used to throw a fish fry every July, serving fresh mullet because of the abundance of the fish. We don't have space for a fish fry this summer, but it sounds like a great idea for *next* summer, after our new facilities are completed. Let's get together and talk about what exciting things we can do in the future. Everyone is welcome and we're looking forward to seeing y'all.

## Crosswinds, from page 2

cheon to honor our "most experienced" parishioners, those energizer bunnies who keep going and going, contributing to our life and ministry for decades. Parishioners 80 and better will be our guests at the Yacht Club at 12:30 p.m. July 19. We'll have a display of photographs of our clergy from the very beginning to the present (how many do you remember?) and other historic memorabilia.

\* \* \*

Here's happy news from our former organ scholar, **John Mason**. You recall that John left us in March to become a musician aboard Norwegian Cruise Lines. John reports he has just been named bandmaster, in charge of all musicians on board ship and conducting the band for all the shows. ("And of course doing all the paperwork stuff," he adds.)

\* \* \*

Are you interested in reserving a niche in **St. Peter's Memorial Garden**? Our construction lender, Freedom Bank, can arrange a payment plan for up to two years, for as little as \$104 a month. Please contact Andi Gorton at our columbarium office, (727) 388-5223, for information.

\* \* \*

If you shop at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), you can **contribute to St. Peter's bottom line** by going through our web site, [www.spccathedral.net](http://www.spccathedral.net). Click on the Cathedral Bookstore link, at the bottom left corner. We receive a percentage of each purchase. We've earned \$35 each month for the last two months. You can buy more than books at amazon: household goods, electronics, toys, more.

\* \* \*

We have uploaded a **new Parish Directory** to our web site, [www.myspccathedral.org](http://www.myspccathedral.org). Many of our members are listed but without photographs because we need a photo of

## Crosswinds

*continued from Page 3*

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.

\* \* \*

Would you rather get **Crosstown via e-mail** than snail mail? Please help us save on growing postal costs by reading it online. E-mail Judy Evans in the church office ([jevans@spcathedral.com](mailto:jevans@spcathedral.com)) and she'll arrange for Crosstown to start appearing in your e-mail in-box each month. Thanks for helping us save money.

\* \* \*

Would you like to spend a few minutes after church on Sundays **delivering altar flowers** to those who are ill or homebound? We need Sunday Callers! Please contact Alice Meyer or Betsy Reynolds if you'd like to participate in this ministry.

\* \* \*

**Our expenses don't go away** when you do. During the summer, please consider having your pledge deducted automatically from your checking account or charged to your credit card. We can set this up only for the time you're away, if you like, and you can resume paying weekly when you return. Please call Martha Goodwill in the office (727-822-4173), or [email her](mailto:mgoodwill@spcathedral.com) ([mgoodwill@spcathedral.com](mailto:mgoodwill@spcathedral.com)) if you would like to have your pledge automatically deducted.

\* \* \*

**Need some exercise?** Walk across the street to Williams Park and follow the new painted footprints on the sidewalk. One circuit is a quarter-mile; four circuits is a mile.

## Jesus Transforms Lives: VBS in the D.R.

Andi Gorton, VBS mission chair

Jesus transforms lives: That is this year's curriculum for Vacation Bible School in the Dominican Republic. As Christians, one of our basic values is reaching out to others and sharing our faith with the hope that Jesus will transform us. St. Peter's parishioners give their time, talent, and treasure in many ways to better the lives of those we touch here and in the world.

The team leaves July 25 for our 11th mission trip and our sixth with our companion churches of La Anunciación and San Lucas in the city of Santiago. As before, we will be joined by our missionary, Karen Carroll. We return August 2.

Working with local school teachers, we will offer a weeklong Escuela Biblica de Vacaciones to 200 to 225 children of all ages. Daily activities include a memory verse, a Bible story reading and discussion, and a craft project. And of course, fun, laughter, picture-taking (Dominican kids love a camera), praise for accomplishments, hugs (Dominican children don't know a stranger), and joy. On the last day, families are invited to watch students present what they've learned by performing a skit, giving a testimonial, singing a song, or sharing in another way as their imaginations dictate.

Contributions are still needed so we can buy supplies (checks may be made payable to St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral, designating DR VBS). We also ask that you pray for us as we prepare for the trip and especially while we are there. Questions? Call Andi Gorton, (727) 421-7704.



## Education for Ministry Course This Fall Emily Williams

An informational meeting about the Education for Ministry course to be offered this fall will be after the 10:15 a.m. service July 12 in St. Mary's Chapel.

EfM is a four-year theological education program for lay persons developed by the School of Theology at the University of the South. Classes meet for two hours, once a week, from September through May, for four years under the direction of a trained mentor. Participants sign up for one year at a time. The cost is \$340 per year for textbooks and study materials. More than 60,000 people have participated in the course since it began in 1975.

The program covers the basics of a theological education: Old Testament, New Testament, church history, and theological choices (trends and movements in the Church). If you are looking for a safe place in which to explore with others your relationship with God and your role in the world; a place to share your doubts, strengthen your faith, and broaden your knowledge of the Christian religion, EfM is the place for you!

EfM groups study and reflect theologically on course materials in light of everyday life and our cultural backgrounds. These reflections help us to discover the true nature of the call to ministry in the church and the world that all baptized Christians share.

Information: Emily Williams, (727) 894-3447.

# July Transitions

## Birthdays

- |                                                                             |                                                                   |                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Judith Loehrer<br>Marnie Long                                             | 11 Barbara Applegate<br>Lizabeth Moody                            | 21 Joanie Andrews<br>Deanna Michael<br>John Miller<br>Carl Robinson         |
| 2 Chelley Tighe                                                             | 12 Carol Nelson<br>Carmen Sellas<br>Bunny Smith                   | 22 Stephen Schroeder                                                        |
| 3 Susan Griffin<br>Jennifer Moylan                                          | 13 Jacques Pare                                                   | 23 Carolyn Rymers                                                           |
| 4 Helen Bohman<br>Vie Cox<br>Katherine Gecan<br>Irene Pavese<br>Jayme Payne | 14 Bryan Shuler                                                   | 24 Judy Stark                                                               |
| 5 Joan Craft                                                                | 15 Abigail Hoyt<br>Jenie Locicero<br>Elma Rosenberg<br>Jean Slone | 25 Jane Durbak                                                              |
| 6 Judi Andersen                                                             | 16 Don Jenkins<br>Phyllis Serratore                               | 26 Millard Neal<br>Bee Paris<br>Buddy Sauter<br>Anne Turner<br>Vance Wegner |
| 7 Nicole Jones                                                              | 17 Dick Abbott<br>Christen Crosby                                 | 27 Jennifer Jones                                                           |
| 8 Dede Natale                                                               | 18 Bev Lacy                                                       | 28 Bob Campbell<br>Susan Savage                                             |
| 9 Nancy Randolph<br>Robert Weissberg                                        | 19 Mimi Aangeenbrug<br>Geoffrey Holtman<br>Clyde Nabe             | 30 Marv Atkins<br>Charlie Nielsen<br>Fran Parsons<br>Arthur Riddlesworth    |
| 10 Sharon George<br>Tom Patterson<br>Carol Phillips<br>Susan Regan          | 20 Chuck Martin                                                   | 31 Frank Knight                                                             |

## Anniversaries

- |                                                                                              |                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Joe and Myra Witko                                                                         | 15 Frank and Anne<br>Turner   |
| 3 Bill and Melissa<br>Barlow                                                                 | 16 Gary and Jean Slone        |
| 4 A.D. and Clair Frazier                                                                     | 18 Cynthia Hawkins-Leon       |
| 5 Bob and Cindy<br>Campbell                                                                  | 25 George and Mary<br>Scott   |
| 8 Wayne and Carol Eich<br>Michael and Penny<br>Robbins<br>Andy and Warren<br>Skinner-Denning | 26 Jerry and Sharon<br>Miller |
| 10 John and Kirsten<br>Miller                                                                | 29 Mark and Cheryl<br>Rowe    |
| 11 Kip Corriveau and<br>Lena Georges                                                         | 30 Rich and Sue<br>McBride    |
| 14 Frank and Camille<br>Knight<br>Chuck and Kim<br>Parsons                                   | 31 James and Suzanne<br>Earle |

## Deaths

Virginia Brew  
Virginia Harrison  
William Mills

## New Members

Andy and Emily Ellis

## Baptism

Joel Higgins Burnsed

Photo by JIM STEWART



*Chapter members stand on the roof of our new building. That's the Cathedral steeple in the background. They took an informal tour of the construction site at the close of the chapter retreat in early June.*

Now that **hurricane season** is here, this reminder: By diocesan policy, when the winds blow at 40 mph or more, all activities at churches are canceled, all worship services are canceled, the buildings will be secured, and staff will leave. We provide no hurricane shelter at St. Peter's. Please stay home and batten down. If you live in an evacuation zone, now is the time to think about where you will go if emergency preparedness officials order you to leave your home.

## Book Study Group to Gather at Atlanta Bread Co.

Canon Conner will lead a five-week class reading and discussing Barbara Brown Taylor's new book, *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*. The class meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, July 29 and August 5, 12, 19, and 26, at the Atlanta Bread Co., 179 First Ave. N.

Taylor, one of the great preachers in the Episcopal Church, finds "the potentially sacred meaning of simple daily activities and conditions, like walking, paying attention, saying no to work one Sabbath day each week," according to *Publisher's Weekly*. She finds she can "do church" everywhere: "in line at the grocery store, walking a moonlit path with her husband."

Phyllis Tickle, Episcopalian, speaker, and author of *The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why*, calls *An Altar in the World* "the most completely beautiful book in religion that I have read in a very long time. Gentle, humbly crafted, lyrical, and deeply wise, *Altar* is Barbara Brown Taylor as she was meant to be, a pastor who understands that knowing God occurs in a place beyond theology."

Please call the office (727-822-4173) to let us know you plan to come. Food and beverages are at your expense. If you're eating, please pick up your meal and be in the reserved meeting room by 6:30 p.m. so we can start on time together.

You can order the book at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Please start at our web site, [spcathedral.net](http://spcathedral.net), and click on "Cathedral bookstore." We earn a percentage of all sales at amazon.com that start at our web site. See Canon Conner for details and an outline of which chapters will be discussed each week.



## Helping Hand for Teen Girls, Homeless Neighbors

John Paul, Outreach Ministry

This month our Outreach Ministry has selected Brookwood, a home for teenage girls, as the recipient of our support. On Sunday, July 5, you're invited to bring items that teen girls might enjoy. For example: new clothing, including socks and underwear; personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, hairbrushes, hair clips, barrettes and hairbands; DVDs of movies suitable for teenage girls; and gift cards to stores such as Target or Wal-mart. Cash is also welcome. We'll collect these items before services that Sunday.

Meanwhile, Celebrate Outreach!, a partnership of downtown St. Petersburg faith-based congregations, continues its work advocating for the homeless. Recently, homeless people gathered on the steps of City Hall have been targeted by "chemical bombs," plastic soda bottles filled with bleach and ammonia. A homeless woman was raped twice by the same assailant in our neighborhood. In an effort to rebuild dignity and provide needed services to our neighbors, Celebrate Outreach! now serves a meal with fellowship to those in need on Friday nights, sponsored by two downtown churches; has created a safe locker facility where homeless people can store their possessions; started a Saturday morning breakfast program, and is working to provide shelter for homeless families through the Family Promise of Pinellas County.

If you'd like to know more or get involved, please speak with John Paul, [jpaul@seas.marine.usf.edu](mailto:jpaul@seas.marine.usf.edu).

## A Month of Romance at the Movies

Eddy Burns

Here's the July lineup for our free movies, shown at 7 p.m. Fridays at St. Peter's Central. Free popcorn! Bring your friends.

July 3: *Before Sunset* (France, 2004).

On June 27 we saw *Before Sunrise*, about two strangers wandering around Vienna and falling in love. In *Before Sunset* the characters reunite after the hero writes a book about that night. The lovers wander around Paris and fall in love all over again.

July 10: *My House in Umbria* (UK, 2004): Evocative drama about a group of travelers in Italy who find solace and friendship after being thrown together by tragedy. Starring the incomparable Maggie Smith.

July 17: *Enchanted April* (UK, 1992):

Four women rent an Italian villa for a month.



July 24: *Bread and Chocolate* (Italy, 1974):

Italian expatriate

works at menial jobs in Switzerland so he can afford to send for his wife and family. When his work permit is revoked, he refuses to return home, preferring to live with a beautiful recluse.

July 31: *Rachel Getting Married* (USA, 2008). Woman brings her baggage of personal crises, family conflict, tragedy, and zingy one-liners when she returns to the family home for her sister's wedding.

Contact [eddyburns@aol.com](mailto:eddyburns@aol.com) with comments and suggestions.

# 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.

Evening Prayer, Friday, 6 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

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(727) 822-4173

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(727) 823-2205

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

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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 —  
[sbm@spcathedral.com](mailto:sbm@spcathedral.com)

The Rev. Canon Georgene Conner, Canon Evangelist —  
[canongigi@spcathedral.com](mailto:canongigi@spcathedral.com)

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: July 15, 2009.

Building  
consecrated  
1899



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



Cathedral  
since  
1969