



Making Room in Our Lives this Lent

The Very Rev. Dr. Russell L. Johnson

By the time you read this, we'll be about at the halfway point in Lent. How is your Lent going? Gloomy? Prayerful? Prayerful for a minute or two here and there when you remember to think about it? Do you recall that it's Lent when you turn down that glass of wine or the candy bar or the fancy coffee drink at Starbucks — whatever you've "given up" for Lent?

A little discipline is good for all of us, and "giving up" is a way of opening up a space in our lives to make room for something new. The Rev. Canon Patti Welch, chaplain of the Cathedral School of St. John the Divine in New York City, writes in *The Episcopal New Yorker* that she likes to live with a little emptiness during Lent. She empties her calendar, a great idea for all of us who try to pack too much into every day. She empties

her closets, giving away things she no longer needs to those who can use them. "I empty myself, with the hope of making room for something new, for what will come," she writes. How about you? What kind of transformation might be happening in your life?

If you're looking for a helpful nudge to make these final weeks of Lent meaningful, I can suggest some online resources. (Maybe "giving up" some of the celebrity gossip websites or YouTube and spending a little less time online would be a good way to empty ourselves during Lent!) At www.beliefnet.com click on "Lenten journey," then look at the interactive Lenten calendar, which suggests an activity for every day in Lent. At www.explorefaith.org, click on "Sorting It Out," a Lenten toolbox for "adjusting your focus and supporting your soul."

Or click on "When We Are Real" at that same site, a calendar with a daily thought for Lenten reflection. At the official website of the Episcopal church, www.dfms.org, click on "Saints and Family" and study the images and icons of saints and the family of Jesus.

I've often thought that people who come to church only on Easter Sunday miss the whole point. We can't truly rejoice in the splendor of the risen Lord unless we have walked that lonesome valley of Holy Week with Jesus. So I encourage you to start with Palm Sunday, March 16, when Jesus made his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on a lowly donkey . . . then bear with him the unbearable sorrow of his final days: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Continued on back of calendar page

Come Take a Look at the Plans!

Pat Wahlen, Building Committee Chair

There are two exciting pieces of news to report this month.

The first is that we'll have floor plans and an image of the front of the new building to show you at the next Building Update. Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 9, after the 9 a.m. service. Please plan to come and see what our new home will look like.

The second piece of news is that by the time you read this, we should be on the verge of closing on the sale of the Baptist Sanctuary. We are sell-

ing it for \$1.1-million to WRH Princess Martha, a business entity of our good friend and neighbor William R. Hough. Hooray!

The last of the rubble has been removed from the site of our old buildings. You won't see much activity out there for the next two months. But a lot is going on elsewhere. Our architect is preparing the detailed construction drawings. We are applying for the variety of permits we will need. Toward the end of April we will begin site preparation.

We expect to hold a groundbreaking in mid-May, before people disperse for the summer. By that time we should have some final decisions about tenants for the second and third floors.

Plan to come on March 9, when we'll be happy to answer your questions. Meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me (pwahlen@msn.com) or Senior Warden Sheree Graves (shereegraves@asgraves.net). We are very glad to talk with you about the project.

Crosswinds

Our Chapter of the **Episcopal Church Women** will host a meeting March 6 of the ECWs from the nine churches in the St. Petersburg Deanery. Dean Johnson will celebrate the Eucharist at 9:30 a.m., followed by reports from each Chapter. Cynthia Sinclair will give a presentation on the work of Resurrection House. All women are welcome! All Episcopal women are automatically members of ECW, so please come and show our guests from around the deanery what our "radical hospitality" at St. Peter's is all about.

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Thanks to all who transformed St. Peter's Central into a **mini Mardi Gras** on Shrove Tuesday! Pancakes, sausage, applesauce — it was truly a Fat Tuesday for all. Your freewill donations for Our Daily Bread totaled \$278.

* * *

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

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You have until Palm Sunday, March 16, to contribute a **Birth-day Bag** to help a child who lives in a shelter celebrate a birthday. 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 and we'll deliver them to the Salvation Army One-Stop Center, which we support, where they will be given out over the year.

* * *

Spring forward! At 2 a.m. Sunday, March 9, we turn the clocks for-

Easter at the Cathedral

Palm Sunday, March 16

Teams of readers will take the roles of participants in the **Passion Gospel** at 5 p.m. Saturday and 7:30, 9, and 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday.

Stations of the Cross for children at 10:15 a.m. in St. Peter's Central. Normal bus service will be offered.

Bach's "St. John Passion," conducted by Edward Barbieri, at 7:30 p.m. Details, page 3.

Maundy Thursday, March 20

5:30 p.m.: Agape Dinner. Free; please reserve your place by calling the office (727-822-4173).

7 p.m. Holy Eucharist and foot-washing.

8:30 p.m. All-night vigil begins in St. Mary's Chapel.

Bus service starts at 4:30 p.m.

Good Friday, March 21

Noon: Good Friday service.

1 p.m. Stations of the Cross.

Bus service starts at 11 a.m.

6 p.m.: "Sing a Song of Lament," prayers and jazz with pianist Bryan Shuler.

Holy Saturday, March 22

No 5 p.m. service this day

8 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter with baptisms. Bishop Smith will be the celebrant. Reception follows. Bus service starts at 6 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 23

7:30, 9 (Bishop Smith will preach and celebrate), **11:15 a.m., and 6 p.m.:** Holy Eucharist and homily. Flowering of the Cross before the 9 a.m. service (please bring fresh flowers). **After the 9 a.m. service:** egg hunt for children. Normal bus service will be offered.

Welcome, Newcomers!

Our Newcomers' Class continues Sundays after the 9 a.m. service on the second floor of St. Peter's Central. Whether you're new to the Episcopal Church or a longtime member who needs a refresher, come to one class or come to all. The lineup:

March 2: Tour of the Cathedral, history of St. Peter's

March 9: Building update, no class

March 16: Palm Sunday, no class

March 23: Easter Day, no class

March 30: Christian formation — "What is ministry?"

April 6: Getting connected: Who's who

April 13: Instructed Eucharist

Music for Lent and Holy Week

At 4 p.m. Sunday, March 2, our music department will present a Lenten evensong with music by Greene and Byrd.

At 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 16 — the evening of Palm Sunday — plan to attend Bach's "St. John Passion," which music director Edward Barbieri describes as "perhaps Bach's most vividly dramatic work."

Performers include the Cathedral's Schola Cantorum; the St Petersburg Festival Orchestra; and soloists Michelle Giglio, soprano; Jason Badger, countertenor; Harv Wileman, tenor; and James Demler, bass.

Tickets are \$20 (students and seniors, \$12), and a beverage reception will be offered.



Young Stewards Take Steps To Fight Hunger, Poverty

Martha Goodwill

Young Episcopal Stewards meet at 6:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month in St. Peter's Central. This is a service group, open to all youth from sixth grade up, that focuses on our role in God's plan of caring for each other and the environment.

Their activities include participating in the March 2 CROP Walk — Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. Through sponsorships for the walk they raised money for the Free Clinic's food programs and for programs through Church World Service to eradicate hunger and poverty. They also collected peanut butter, rice, and beans for the Free Clinic's food bank, which supports about 50 food pantries in Pinellas.

For information about YES, contact Martha Goodwill or Melissa Barlow.



Flowers: Arrange Them, Buy Them, Admire Them!

Carolyn Randall, Flower Guild

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 5, the Flower Guild will host a flower-arranging workshop in the Cathedral. In the morning, learn about flower maintenance and how to create several types and sizes of arrangements. After lunch Brian Redman of Redman Steele florists will demonstrate the creation of an arrangement. Your \$15 fee covers coffee and rolls, lunch, and all materials. This is a diocesan-wide event, and your friends are welcome!

That same day the Episcopal Church Women will hold a plant sale. (You can come buy plants even if you don't attend the flower-arranging workshop.) Proceeds will benefit Our Daily Bread and our mission in the Dominican Republic.



Crosswinds, from page 2

ward one hour. Turn yours ahead when you go to bed Saturday night and get thee to the church on time the next day.

* * *

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will visit our diocese November 6-8. She will preside at the opening Eucharist of the National Association of Episcopal Schools' biennial conference in Tampa. Watch for details on events being planned by the diocese to allow clergy and parishioners the chance to meet the presiding bishop that weekend.

* * *

"Vatican Splendors" runs through May 11 at the Florida International Museum, 244 Second Ave. N. View works by Michelangelo, Bernini, Giotto; artwork dating back to the third century; and bone relics of our own St. Peter! Details:

www.vaticansplendors.com or www.floridamuseum.org. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$17 senior, \$12 students ages 6 through 12. Group discounts available. Call (727) 341-7912.

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For two Monday nights, March 10 and 17, we'll gather from 6:30 to 8 p.m. to discuss **The Words of Jesus: A Gospel of the Sayings of Our Lord with Reflections**, by Phyllis Tickle. Order your own book from amazon.com; please call the office (727-822-4173) to let us know you're coming. Questions? Speak to Canon Conner.

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March 9 is CPC Sunday. That stands for "Church Periodical Club." We'll have special envelopes in which you can donate to this ministry, which provides funds for printed materials, tapes and other ways of spreading the Good News. Half the money stays in this diocese; half goes to the national CPC. If you've ever been glad to have a prayer book or a Bible, you can make that possible for someone else.

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

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(727) 823-2205

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stpetersplace@spcathedral.com

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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 (judy Stark@yahoo.com); Associate Editor, Mary W. Matthews (mothermary@extremelysmart.com). **Next deadline: March 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

March Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 Jim Rex | 12 Rose LaHar
Gary Reynolds | 21 Robert Linn
Jillian Haines |
| 2 Royce Hobby | 13 John Crandall
Blair Clarke | 22 Jessica Schroeder |
| 3 Neil Savage
Rachael Witko | 14 Lisa Smithson
Elizabeth Reynolds | 23 Lucy Barnett
Julia Loscalzo
Noah Blacker
Laura Bygrave |
| 4 Carol Piper | 15 Dick Hoban | 25 Vinson Arnold |
| 5 Amy Campbell
Bella Shuler | 16 Gareth Eich
Jill Trubey | 26 George Fox
Elizabeth Garnett |
| 7 Logan Hurst
Aaron Salsman | 18 Richard Earle
Cynthia Garrels | 27 Jim Potter |
| 8 Marguerite Dawson
Kevin Scott
Kevin Hughes | 19 Bill Keeler
Mae Holmes
Dorothy Lomison
Lisa Shaw
Elizabeth Shuler | 28 Barbara Kirk
Carolann Miller |
| 9 Andrea Day | 20 Emily Hoyt | 29 Aidan Shuler |
| 10 Gene Haines
Pat Lavalette
Mildred Burdick
Kathy Campbell
Paige Nielsen | | 30 Tina Bacon
Bob Schutte |
| | | 31 Ron Sinclair |

March Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Royce and Priscilla
Hobby | 20 Paul and Kim Chance |
| 17 Brandon and Julie
Clarke | 26 Tom and Virginia
Brew |

The Cathedral office will be closed March 24 through 26, the Monday through Wednesday after Easter. It will reopen Thursday, March 27.

Pledge Drive Yields Another Increase Susan Churuti, Stewardship Chair

The 2008 pledge drive yielded an increase of 4 percent over last year. Pledges increased in number from 193 to 203, and the total pledged grew from \$531,855 to \$550,898. That's just short of our goal of \$600,000.

Although the average pledge dropped slightly — from \$2,756 to \$2,714 — the weekly average of all pledges increased from \$10,228 to

\$10,594. The average pledge in the Episcopal Church in 2006, the most recent year for which figures are available, was \$2,088. There were 82 pledges of the same amount as last year, 80 increases, and 31 decreases. The Stewardship Committee is grateful to everyone who participated in this campaign and made a commitment to our faith community.

Making Room in Our Lives This Lent *continued from page 1*

Come to the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday night, March 22, a magnificent service in which we move from darkness and gloom into the brilliant light and joy of the resurrection. And come on Easter Day, that happy morning. This is why we are Christians: to rejoice in the promise of eternal life for each of us. This Lent, make room in your life for this.

Be strong, be in God,

Russell[†]

Movies for March Eddy Burns

Here's the movie lineup for March. Movies are shown at 7 p.m. Fridays in St. Peter's Central. Admission is free and so is the popcorn: Bring your friends! Find details on the bulletin board or at www.spcathedral.net.

March 7: *Days of Glory* (Algiers/Belgium/France, 2006)

March 14: *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (USA, 1938): with Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland

March 21: No movie (Good Friday)

March 28:
Black Book
(Netherlands, 2006)

