



# CROSSTOWN

March 2009

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

## New Service Times, New Plans for Our Life Together

The Very Rev. Stephen B. Morris

I have much to be grateful for in my life at St. Peter's Cathedral. The Celebration of New Ministry on January 30 and the Meet and Greet at St. Peter's Central with city leaders on February 19 could not have happened without you, the dedicated parishioners of St. Peter's, and I am most thankful. Bless all of you who serve our Lord in this place. Your tireless efforts are most appreciated.

I am also grateful for your willingness in allowing me to move forward with some changes in our worship life. Our new Sunday morning worship times (8 and 10:15 a.m., starting March 1) and the bulletin change that puts the

Prayer Book and Hymnal back in our hands are changes that will enhance the spirit of unity and joy in our worship life. (See the back page and our web site, [spcathedral.net](http://spcathedral.net), for details of our weekend worship, fellowship, and educational activities.) We "do church" well and I intend for us to improve in our worship and service to others to the greater glory of God.

I have met with many of you as we implement new plans for pastoral care, outreach, and education and formation. I sense a passion and energy that are created by inspired imaginations. We are developing a practical plan to accompany the imagination. Again, thank you

for your support and encouragement along the way.

We claim progress, not perfection, as our goal in all that we undertake. As we enter Lent we have the opportunity to examine our lives in order to make progress. We are not trying to be perfect. Remember, Jesus was not a perfectionist. He was perfect! That is why, as followers of Jesus, we fall to our knees in adoration and thanks for all that He is to us. He does not expect us to be perfect in our individual and corporate lives. He does, however, desire that we make progress in order to be more like Him.

May this season of repentance and reflection provide each of you the chance to make this kind of progress. I promise that we, the staff and Chapter, are doing the same in our church work.

## Author Crossan Is Our Theologian-in-Residence March 27-29

Canon Gigi Conner



John Dominic Crossan, a leading Christian scholar and author, will be our theologian-in-residence March 27-29.

Dr. Crossan is one of the major figures in the scholarly circles that examine Jesus as a historical figure: What did Jesus really say and do? What really happened during Holy Week? Why did the words and deeds of Jesus so alarm the religious, political and military leaders in first-century Jerusalem that they wanted him dead?

Dr. Crossan will give four talks, on Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28, that focus on the Gospel of Mark and what it has to say about the disciples, the crucifixion, and the resurrection. He will preach at both morning services March 29.

To prepare for Dr. Crossan's visit, we'll offer a class on Wednesdays in Lent looking at his book, *The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem*, co-written with Marcus Borg (see the box on Page 2 for details).

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## Crosswinds

The **Friends of St. Aelred** invite our Cathedral family and friends to join us after the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, March 8, in St. Peter's Central for a pot-luck lunch. If you plan to attend, please call the Cathedral office by noon Wednesday, March 4. For information, contact Rick Waterman at (727) 577-0902 or [tbhockeyfan@gmail.com](mailto:tbhockeyfan@gmail.com). We look forward to having you with us that Sunday!

\* \* \*

A second open house for those wanting **more information about our columbarium** will be at noon Saturday, March 7, at St. Peter's Central. In addition, a new "virtual tour" of the columbarium and the City Peace Garden will be available at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 1, at [www.peacememorialgarden.org](http://www.peacememorialgarden.org). Click on "Join the tour."

\* \* \*

Some parishioners who are buying a **columbarium niche** have asked whether loved ones already interred in our Memorial Garden can be moved to the niche. The answer: yes and no. When someone is interred directly into the ground, they become literally a part of the earth, part of the life of the garden. However, we can disinter symbolic ashes from where the person was placed so they can be moved to a container in a niche. A service of disinterment will be at 11:45 a.m. Sunday, March 22. If you would like to participate in this service, please call the Columbarium Office at (727) 388-5223 for specifics.

\* \* \*

Watch for details about a **prayer book ribbon workshop** one Saturday in March. Jayme Payne will lead this activity for adults and children. The ribbon markers will be placed in the prayer books in the Cathedral, making it easy to find your way as we return to use of the prayer books in worship services.

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## Crossan

*continued from Page 1*

Registration forms for Dr. Crossan's lectures are available at the church office. See the box for details about times and costs.

Dr. Crossan, a former Catholic priest, taught for 26 years at DePaul University in Chicago and is professor emeritus in its Department of Religious Studies. He is the author of 23 books on the historical Jesus.

He is a co-founder of the Jesus Seminar, a group of scholars involved in biblical criticism who focus on what Jesus may or may not have said and done as a historical figure.

He and Marcus Borg are also co-authors of *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach about the Birth of Jesus*. Crossan, born in Ireland, now lives in Mayberry, near Orlando.

## Dr. Crossan's Schedule

### Friday, March 27

6:30 p.m. Registration and light dinner

7:30-9:30 p.m. Lecture: "The Matrix of Mark," followed by book-signing

Fee: \$10 for light dinner and lecture

### Saturday, March 28

8-9 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast

9-10:30 a.m. Lecture: "The Disciples in Mark"

11-12:30 p.m. Lecture: "The Crucifixion in Mark"

12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch and book signing

1:30-3 p.m. Lecture: "The Resurrection in Mark"

Fee: \$15 for continental breakfast, lunch, and three lectures

### Sunday, March 29

8 and 10:15 a.m. Dr. Crossan will preach at both services

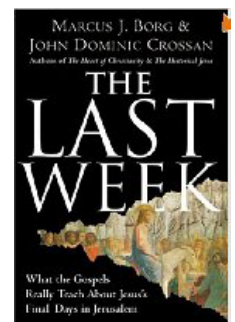
## Read the Book Before Dr. Crossan's Visit

In preparation for the visit of our theologian-in-residence, we will offer a class on Wednesday evenings in Lent to discuss *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*, co-written by Crossan and Marcus Borg.

The class runs March 4, 11, 18, and 25 and April 1. We will begin with a short worship service in the Cathedral at 6:15 p.m., followed by a soup supper at 6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Central. Book discussion is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The class will be led by Dean Morris, Canon Conner, and parish intern Sam Tallman. We'll spend the last class reflecting on what we learned from Dr. Crossan during his visit here.

The book is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for \$11.95. Start your online shopping at our web site, [www.spcathedral.net](http://www.spcathedral.net), and click on "Cathedral bookstore" to order. We earn a percentage of all online book sales that start at our site.

If you plan to come, please sign up at the Welcome Cart or call the church office (727-822-4173) so we know how much soup to prepare!



## Looking in the Mirror: Poverty and Wealth

The neighborhood surrounding St. Peter's is a mix of homeless and high-rise, extreme poverty and affluence. How do we as a church and as individuals respond to each of these? What does Scripture say about poverty and wealth? How can we think, act, and pray about poverty and wealth in our community today? We'll take up these issues in a class that meets at 9 a.m. on five Sundays in Lent, starting March 1, led by Sam Tallman and Kip Corriveau.

Sam Tallman has had a very successful career in banking and finance. But his engagement with scripture and spiritual discernment made him challenge accepted norms and question the church's values about wealth: identity, lifestyle, stewardship. Sam is a parish intern in a discernment process of his call to the priesthood.

Kip Corriveau is director of social services for the Salvation Army of Upper Pinellas, supervising a small food pantry, an emergency rent and utility assistance program, and a transitional housing program for homeless families. A former Catholic priest, Kip has worked in inner-city hospitals, rural parishes, and homeless shelters for the last 15 years.



## The Fisherfolk Invite You to a Pot-Luck! Bob Campbell

How many of you remember St. Monica's, a guild of the Episcopal Church Women? Originally this was a group of young women with families who met one Friday afternoon a month at the Cathedral. Then, to include working women, the group moved its meetings to Friday evenings at members' homes. Spouses/partners and guests were invited to enjoy a social hour, potluck supper, and music or a program.

The guild grew to include anyone who wanted to attend: newcomers, singles, old and young. Sixty or seventy participants were typical, even more at holiday time. The group became an incubator: If you had an idea for ministry, talk it up at a St. Monica's gathering and people came forward to help.

This group is back, now known as the Fisherfolk, because we think it more accurately reflects the group. You recall the offer Jesus made to Peter and Andrew: Follow me and I will have you fish for people. Every adult in the community is invited to join us. Single, partnered, young or older, there are no restrictions. Everyone is welcome.

Our first gathering will be Saturday, March 14, in St. Peter's Central for a potluck dinner. Dress casually and let's have some fun together. Hospitality starts at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30. Bring a dish to share. The agenda is purely community and social. After dinner we'll talk among ourselves about future gatherings and what we can accomplish together. Come join us Fisherfolk and let's talk about the exciting things that are happening at St. Peter's.



## Crosswinds, from page 2

\* \* \*

**Baptism classes** for adults and children will be at 10:30 a.m. on three Saturdays: March 28, April 4 and April 11. We will celebrate baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter on April 11 and on Pentecost, May 31. The classes, led by Canon Conner, will discuss our own experience of baptism; why we want to have our children baptized; responsibilities of parents; and the implications of baptism for adults. If you seek baptism for yourself or a child, please call the office to sign up (727-822-4173).

\* \* \*

Our **Outreach Ministry's "giving calendar"** invites you to bring travel-size personal hygiene items on March 1. If you're planning ahead, on April 5 we will collect non-perishable food items for St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Outreach has set up a calendar to support a particular need for a specific charity or ministry group in our community. We'll remind you each month.

\* \* \*

**March 1 is the last day we will offer bus service.** With budget restrictions, we must tighten our belts and can no longer justify the expense for a few riders. We are looking for a couple of kind souls who would be willing to bring one or two of our current riders to services. Most live within a mile of the Cathedral. Our one exception is a parishioner who lives off 66th Avenue and 30th Street N. If you can help, please call the church office at (727) 822- 4173.

\* \* \*

Friendly reminder that **ministry groups intending to do fundraising** must get Chapter permission in advance. This includes freewill offering baskets, special envelopes, charging admission or selling items. We do this to avoid colliding fund-raisers and to maximize the likelihood of success for all groups.



## The Thomas File

**Background:** Master's degree in music from Indiana University, 1990, majoring in organ and church music

**Previous positions locally:** Director of music and organist, Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Sun City Center . . . staff organist, Roaring 20s Pizza and Pipes, Ellenton . . . organ instructor, Manatee Community College.

**Earlier:** Organist at Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Disciples of Christ and Hebrew congregations . . . many recordings, both solo and as accompanist for choral groups.

**Personal:** Age 44 . . . lives in Bradenton . . . loves Starbucks coffee.

## Four Questions for Dwight Thomas

Dwight Thomas joins us March 1 as our director of music ministries. We caught up with him to get acquainted and ask a couple of questions.

*Q. Tell us what we can expect to hear and see in the Cathedral's music program.*

A. The Cathedral has always had a profound tradition of music-making, which I look forward to continuing. Initially I will reorganize and consolidate the various ensembles and groups in the choral program. Beyond that, I plan on taking time getting to know people and finding out what helps them in their worship. This in turn will help me in my planning and will help all of us in our worship and in our growth as loving disciples.

*Q. Your title is "director of music ministries." What does that mean?*

A. Worship is the most important thing we do as the people of God to show our love for God. To me music is an important vehicle in expressing that love. Music is also a great gift from God to show God's love for us. It's a two-way street. We as musicians and singers aren't there to provide entertainment. We are helping to lead the worship, using music as another way to express our praise and thanksgiving. I feel it's important to look for ways to keep music fresh and vibrant in this double expression, and also to have music that is genuine and meaningful.

*Q. What kind of music do you listen to?*

A. When I'm driving, the radio is tuned to National Public Radio, or it's off so I can have some quiet time to think. A lot of the music I listen to is on music videos at the gym: I'm a real fan of Gwen Stefani and Avril Lavigne. I'm also a big fan of the Cambridge Singers and Chanticleer, the men's chorus from San Francisco too bad they don't have music videos at the gym as well!

*Q. What else should we know about you?*

A. I'm a real meteorology geek (I was going to become a meteorologist before I became a musician) and I get really geeky during hurricane season. I work out regularly to keep me sane (hence the interest in music videos at the gym, above). My partner, Rick, and I volunteer for the Gulf Shore Animal League by offering foster care for feral cats and kittens until they can be adopted out through the league's adoption program.

## Historic Designation Sought for Cathedral

The Chapter voted unanimously February 19 to seek city historic landmark designation for the Cathedral.

This means any alterations to the exterior of the Cathedral must be approved by the city. Landmark status has no effect on the interior of the Cathedral.

"Landmark status means we will comply with the city's regulations to maintain the historic appearance of the Cathedral, which we would do anyway," said senior warden Sheree Graves.

St. Petersburg Preservation Inc., which is assisting us in filing our application, cheered the move as "really great news and a major step forward for historic preservation." The Cathedral is "an outstanding and, for us, rare example of Gothic Revival architecture," said SPPI president Will Michaels.

The move came at the urging of our lender, Freedom Bank. Landmark designation allows us to obtain density credits that we can then sell to developers. The potential value of those credits helps us to collateralize our loan with Freedom to complete our new building.

The Baptist Sanctuary has long been designated as a city historic landmark and we are seeking to obtain density credits on that building as well.

In other action, Dean Morris has named Marian McGrath as senior warden in training. She will work closely with the current senior and junior wardens, Sheree Graves and Jim Stewart, for the rest of this year, and then step up as senior warden at the Annual Meeting in January 2010. Marian is an attorney with her own practice, specializing in estate planning, probate, and trusts.

***Reserved for calendar page***

# March Transitions

## Birthdays

1 Jim Rex	12 Rose LaHar Gary Reynolds	22 Amy Sauers Jessica Schroeder
2 Royce Hobby	13 Blair Clarke John Crandall	23 Lucy Barnett Noah Blacker Laura Bygrave Julia Loscalzo
3 Neil Savage Rachael Witko	14 Elizabeth Reynolds Lisa Smithson	25 Vinson Arnold Christine Fasan
4 Carol Piper	15 Dick Hoban	26 George Fox Elizabeth Garnett
5 Amy Campbell Bella Shuler	16 Gareth Eich	27 Jim Potter
7 Logan Hurst Aaron Salsman	17 Kerryanne Shuler	28 Barbara Kirk Carolann Miller Lynn Webb
8 Dianne Casorio Marguerite Dawson Kevin Hughes Kevin Scott	19 Bill Keeler Dorothy Lomison Lisa Shaw Elizabeth Shuler	29 Kim Chance Vincent Murante Aidan Shuler
9 Andrea Day Liz Wright	20 Emily Hoyt Mary Murante	30 Tina Bacon Bob Schutte
10 Mildred Burdick Kathy Campbell Gene Haines Pat Lavalette Paige Nielsen	21 Robert Linn Jillian Harms	31 Ron Sinclair

## Anniversaries

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

## Deaths

The Rev. Herbert L. Rowe  
John Veasey

## New Members

Al Fones  
Ray McColgan  
Mary and Louie Adcock, Jr.

## Online Resources for a Faithful Lent

As we move into Lent, visit these web sites for help on your spiritual journey:

\* At [www.beliefnet.com](http://www.beliefnet.com), you'll find an interactive Lenten calendar that suggests an activity for every day in Lent. The site also offers readings and devotionals and an essay on "Lent as divine therapy."

\* Visit [explorefaith.org](http://explorefaith.org), which typically offers a calendar with a daily thought to reflect on and a toolbox for "adjusting your focus and supporting your soul."

\* At the official web site of the Episcopal church, [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org), look at "A Spiritual Journey," a small-group Lenten resource.



## Way of the Cross on Good Friday

### Lela Garnett

Adults and children are invited to participate in our Way of the Cross walk through downtown St. Petersburg at 7:45 a.m. on Friday, April 10, Good Friday.

We'll do things a little differently this year: No costumes, and no dramatization of the Passion Story. Instead, we will walk to various appropriate locations around downtown and stop for prayer, narration, and reading of the Scriptures. We will end the walk inside the Cathedral. Anyone who would like to read a lesson can contact Lela Garnett at (727) 894-4956. This will be the 34th time St. Peter's has presented the Way of the Cross, which always draws participants from all around the diocese and spectators from downtown.

## Movies in March

### Eddy Burns

Here's the March movie lineup. Join us for free movies and popcorn at 7 p.m. Fridays at the atrium at St. Peter's Central. Details about the movies are on the web site ([spcathedral.net](http://spcathedral.net)) and the bulletin board in the atrium.

March 6: *Breaker Morant* (U.K., 1980).

Eddy Burns will lead a discussion before the movie about the what and why of the Boer War, in the final days of which this film takes place.

March 6: *City Lights* (U.S., 1931).

Charlie Chaplin at the peak of his powers in this silent movie about the Little Tramp who falls in love with a blind flower girl.

March 20: *The Double Life of*

*Veronique* (France, 1991): Two women, complete strangers, are strangely linked to each other.

March 27: No movie because of the appearance by theologian-in-residence John Dominic Crossan.

# Annual Prayer Breakfast with the Bishop

Saturday, April 4

Vance Wegner

Bishop Dabney Smith will be the speaker at the annual Prayer Breakfast hosted by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 4. 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 Eucharist. Then the brotherhood will serve their legendary hearty breakfast, followed by Bishop Smith's talk. The cost is \$5 if you are able, payable at the door. The offering will be given to a local charity.

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

# New Ways to Do Kindly Deeds for Each Other

Sam Tallman, Parish Intern

Pastoral care is being invigorated as we form two groups to minister to those with immediate needs.

\* **Sunday Callers** will resume a ministry from our past by taking the Sunday flowers to those who are ill, in the hospital, or experiencing a joyous occasion such as the arrival of a child. Along with clergy visits, this ministry will strengthen our ties to those with sudden changes in their lives.

\* A second group, **Friends of St. Peter's**, will offer more practical ways of supporting those with short-term needs, such as providing meals when someone returns from the hospital or transportation to medical appointments. The Friends will be a hometown ministry of kindly deeds. Both women and men can serve on an as-needed, short-term basis. Many other ideas of support will likely emerge, such as funeral receptions.

**Eucharistic Visitors** will continue to minister to our shut-ins and to those with long-term needs who also need continuing ties to the church.

Through pastoral care, we grow in taking responsibility for our parish community, those whom God has called to this place. Deeds of love done for one another deepen and strengthen our ties. Organizational meetings and ways to participate will be announced shortly.



photo by JIM DELA



photo by JIM DELA



*Dozens of parishioners signed the final steel beam before it was hoisted into place in the framework of our new building on February 19. Last to sign was Peter Betzer, head of the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, a fitting symbol of our ties to the community around us. Emily Hoyt won the contest to guess the weight of the beam. Her estimate of 115 pounds was closest to its actual weight of 138 pounds.*

# St. Peter's: A Guide

*With God's help, we will welcome all people.*

## 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*

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 Communion and Homily  
*Worship music led by choirs  
Blended worship style for all ages*

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.*



## 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)

## 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. Clyde Nabe, assisting priest

The Rev. Richard T. Earle III, Deacon — [rearle@fishersauls.com](mailto:rearle@fishersauls.com)

Samuel V. Tallman, Parish Intern

Dwight Thomas, Director of Music Ministries —  
[music@spcathedral.com](mailto:music@spcathedral.com)

Pamela J. League, Administrator — [pam@spcathedral.com](mailto:pam@spcathedral.com)

## Monday-Friday

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m. ☞ Evening Prayer, Monday and Friday, 6 p.m.

## Wednesday

Service of Healing, 10 a.m.

## Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Holy Communion, 12:05 p.m.

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: April 15, 2009.

Building  
consecrated  
1899



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



Cathedral  
since  
1969