



First the Resurrection; Now the Risks

The Very Rev. Dr. Russell L. Johnson

The season after Easter is upon us. We call it "the Great 50 Days," and all during it the new Paschal candle remains lit. It reminds us of Resurrection and the presence now of the light of Christ, shining forth and warming us with Christ's presence.

The Paschal candle — "Paschal" means "relating to Passover or Easter" — is the tall white candle that stands near the altar during the great 50 days. The rest of the year it stands, unlighted (except on major occasions), near the baptismal font at the back of the church. As the days after Easter unfold, we — like the original disciples — may find it all too easy to get caught up again in the old, routine ways of life. With the Easter Alleluias fading and the joy and beauty of Easter morning growing dim, it may seem illogical to still be thinking about the life-changing power of the Resurrection. The culture around us has long ago put away the colored eggs and chocolate bunnies.

Nevertheless, our Sunday worship points us towards those Resurrection appearances experienced by the original disciples. They invite us to reflect upon the power of God to change us and the things in the world around us. The one clear fact that jumps from the pages of the New Testament is that after Resurrection, the disciples were not afraid to take risks. They preached the Good News when the authorities warned them not to do so. They defied local authorities in favor of obeying God rather than earthly powers. They suffered imprison-

ment and stonings and beatings, all so that others might hear about a God reaching out to be in relationship with them. The fear of death no longer constrained them from doing what needed to be done in the service of God.

So how about you? Ready to do some risk-taking? Why not? Maybe this Easter season, during these Great 50 Days, you could do some risk-taking as a way of proclaiming a belief in resurrection. Invite someone to church with you. Tell an acquaintance about the God who lives and wants relationship with us. Read the Acts of the Apostles and see how they spread the infant church from Jerusalem to Rome. Do some crazy, random act of kindness for another. Pray out loud in a restaurant before eating. Be brave, risk embarrassment, proclaim Resurrection and your belief in eternal

life. It's Easter! Christ has risen!

As a footnote, let me say how grateful I am for the many people whose gifts and talents offered during Holy Week made this year's Easter worship so wonderful. The staff and administrative volunteers did incredible work producing hundreds of bulletins. The Altar Guild, Flower Guild, musicians, and singers made our worship lovely and reverent. The children and youth and their mentors gave us a wonderful Stations of the Cross. We had welcoming hospitality for friends and visitors. And the facilities manager and sexton kept the place clean and respectable. Thanks and blessings to all of you.

Be strong, be in God.

Leaders Will Focus on Taking the Lead

Leaders of the Cathedral's many ministries and committees will gather May 12 to think out loud about a new way of working together, coordinating activities, and setting priorities for their work.

"Our primary objective for the day is to gain a better understanding of how various groups relate to each other and to seek the guidance of leaders in the design of our organizational structure," said Jim Stewart, a Chapter member who is part of the Continuity Committee that will lead the activities.

The specific objectives for the day are to:

- discuss our reasons for being downtown and ways in which we envision relating to our neighborhood (brainstorming);
- show a projected reorganization in which all our groups will interact with each other;
- get groups to discuss how they're doing and what they want to do;

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Crosswinds

Youth Sunday is May 20. At the 10:30 a.m. service that day we'll recognize everyone who is graduating this year: from high school, junior college, trade school, college, graduate school, military school — any and all. Please call the office (727-822-4173) so we know how many to plan for. We'll honor all our graduates at a reception in the Parish Hall after the service.

* * *

Our annual picnic, which is usually scheduled in May, will take place this year on Sunday, September 9, at Fort DeSoto Park. Mark your calendar now and watch for details later in the summer.

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Please welcome **Judy Evans**, our new part-time publications assistant. She is responsible for the weekend worship bulletins, *Crosstown*, and many other flyers, handouts, and other printed materials. Judy is a former reporter for the *Miami Herald* and the *Daily Business Review* in West Palm Beach. She has been a bankruptcy specialist for Republic Bank in St. Petersburg and most recently was editor-in-chief for the monthly magazine *Senior Voice of Florida*. In her spare time she is a competitor in sprint triathlons.

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No Vacation Bible School is planned this summer at the Cathedral. But save the weekend of August 24 for an Adventure in Narnia!

* * *

Our mission team to the **Dominican Republic** invites you to contribute these supplies: Crayons, colored pencils, scissors, pencil sharpeners, markers, glue sticks, hole punches, stickers (no English words, please). We'll have a container in the Parish Hall. Our team goes to "the DR" in July. Questions? Call Andi Gorton at (727) 421-7704.

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The Bible and Same-Sex Relationships

The last of three "conversations within the congregation" on gay and lesbian issues that touch our lives as Episcopalians will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, in the Bistro.

The topic for that night is: "What does scripture say or not say about same-sex relationships? What are your feelings, questions, ideas, and concerns on the subject?" Earlier sessions dealt with same-sex blessings and partnered gay clergy.

The series is hosted by the dean and the members of the Friends of St. Aelred's, our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters. All are welcome!



An Afternoon of Tea and Jewelry

Natalie Irwin / ECW

You can call it "Girls and Their Pearls." Or you can sing a chorus of "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend." Either way, please come: to the ECW Tea and Jewelry Show, from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 19, in the Parish Hall.

Tickets are \$15, and the proceeds benefit a number of mission and outreach efforts that ECW has long supported. Mothers, daughters, sisters, and girlfriends all welcome!

We plan to have four or five vendors there to show and sell their jewelry. We're also hoping to have someone show how to make your own beaded jewelry.

All this will be preceded by a festive and elaborate tea, with pastries and other goodies. Join us for this fun afternoon!



St. Pete Pride Parade

A group from St. Peter's will walk in the St. Pete Pride Parade on June 30, and we invite all who are interested to join us. We will be part of an ecumenical group that includes Lutherans, the United Church of Christ Rainbow Coalition, and Holy Spirit Ecumenical Catholic Church.

After the parade we'll staff a booth to distribute information about St. Peter's at a daylong street fair. We'll close the day with an ecumenical worship service.

This is the second year that an organized group identified with St. Peter's has participated in the Pride Parade.

If you'd like to participate, please see Rick Waterman (tbhockeyfan@gmail.com). The parade starts at 10 a.m. at 31st Street and Third Avenue N and the parade route is an easy walk of about 12 blocks down Central Avenue. We'll have more details in next month's *Crosstown* and on the web site, spcathedral.net.



Building presentation on the website

The Building Committee made a presentation to the congregation on April 29 about plans for our new spaces. That presentation was too late for *Crosstown's* deadlines, but please visit www.spcathedral.net for a summary. We'll use the website, this newsletter, and other means of communication to keep you informed about our progress.



Missions and Outreach Survey Results

Chelley Tighe

Missions and Outreach

A survey conducted by the Missions and Outreach Committee in March showed that outreach is an important part of respondents' spiritual life: 102 of 124 respondents so indicated. The survey also showed that 119 respondents were aware of outreach activities at the Cathedral. Respondents showed greatest awareness of the following ministries: Our Daily Bread: 110 responses; Dominican Project/Missionary Karen Carroll, 109; Resurrection House, 103.

Outreach-related groups and activities in which members of our congregation participate include CASA, Hospice, the Free Clinic, and various lay ministries and groups within the church (Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Shawl Ministry, New Orleans mission trip). The survey will help us define ourselves and concentrate our energy on the ministries that mean the most to our congregation.

In the coming months, we will meet with the Chapter and representatives of outreach organizations from our own congregation and our community to find the most effective ways to help those in need. Watch this space for more information about who we are, what we do, and how you can help. If you signed your survey indicating an interest in outreach activities, we haven't forgotten you. We will contact you as our ministry unfolds.



Leaders Will Focus on Taking the Lead

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— set up future meetings for leadership training and for calendar planning.

This will be a time for gaining a better understanding of how each of us contributes to the life of the Church and, with the encouragement of our clergy staff, what we need to do to make our parish less clergy-centric and more intentionally led by lay members, Jim said.

Continuing conversations will deal with the activities and ministries and uses of our spaces that we want to be known for and define the signature ministries we want to embrace as a parish.

Questions? See Sheree Graves, senior warden, or Jim Stewart.

Crosswinds, from page 2

Wanted: A few more good hands (and wrists and arms) to join our **Bell Choir**, which performed so beautifully at Easter. Contact director of music Edward Barbieri or bell choir leader John Hoover if you're interested.

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Please welcome the new rector of St. Thomas' on Snell Isle: **the Rev. Chris Schuller**, who will move to St. Petersburg in June from Jesup, Ga. He has a strong background in healing ministries. His wife, Bettina, is a spiritual director who leads workshops on contemplative and centering prayer. They have two teen-age daughters. In their earlier lives Chris played in rock bands and the Schullers ran a T-shirt shop in Key West. We'll look forward to welcoming them to our diocese.



Movie Night

Here's the lineup for our Friday night film series in May. Movies are shown at 7 p.m. in the bistro; free popcorn! For details, visit our web site (spcathedral.net) or check the postings on the bulletin boards.

May 4, *The Beautiful Country* (Norway/USA 2004)

May 11, *The Train* (USA/France/Italy, 1964)

May 18, *Central Station* (Brazil, 1998)

May 25, *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (USA, 1956)



Music for Lunch

Music for Lunch, our noontime concert series, concludes this year at 12:05 p.m. May 2 with a concert by the Cathedral choral scholars. A freewill offering is taken, followed by an optional lunch (\$6.50) in the Parish Hall. Thanks to the many volunteers who have made this program a success this year!

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

9-10 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Christian education for all ages

10:30 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.*



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.

Visiting/getting in touch

Street address: 140 Fourth Street N (33701). Church entrance: On Second Avenue N just west of Fourth Street. Please use the garden door on weekdays. Office entrance is through the garden on the Fourth Street side.

Mailing address:

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Telephone:

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rjohnson@spcathedral.com

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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

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).

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St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral

The Episcopal Seat of the Diocese of Southwest Florida

The Rt. Rev. John B. Lipscomb, D.Min., Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Dabney T. Smith, Bishop Coadjutor

Transitions

May Birthdays

1 Keith Sales Rhody Gecan Robbie Hasbrouck	6 Tim Lanz Christopher Swan	13 Barbara Albin Conner Chambers	19 John Hamm Elizabeth Schroeder	27 Anna Costello Louise Garrigues Tim Holly Jim Wehle
3 Melissa Barlow Xander Beard Bill Butler	7 Will Bennett	14 Josephine Sievers Sharon Sole	20 Georgia Hardage Alice Roess	28 Betty Wilhelm
4 Julius Durphey Richard Franco-Dahm Bill Harvard Steve Lasky Leah Pardee Carolyn Randall Betty Scarborough	8 Don Hickey	15 William Church Nicole Dahm Will Holly Marie Moench	21 Mary Jo Mastry	29 Niki Cross Suzanne Earle Carol Ellis Nancy Hicks Jeff Hudgins Peter Schaeffer
5 Harry Aylesworth Phyllis Blackwell Charles Gill	9 Will Hollingsworth Diana Leavengood Michelle Salsman	16 Freda Caley Kendall Webber	22 Kathleen Beard Karen Christensen Carl Sole	30 Mark Galvin
	11 Erica Blackwell Phyllis Emerson Suzanne Haerther	17 Kyle Hirvela Samantha Hobbs Brandon Lilavois Jackie Petersen	23 Jim Budd Four Dunton Leeanne McDonough Donald Skinner	31 Rose-Helen Blanc Rosamond Dana Jim Stewart
	12 John (Jack) Clarke Mark Gordon Kelly Hamilton Margaret Jacobs Camilla Kilgroe Michelle Marks	18 Eileen Bellino Kelly Grimshaw	24 Kit Clarke Corey Crow Joan White	
			26 Hazel Hough	

May Anniversaries

2 Max & Pat Bygrave	14 Brad & Dottie Hirvela	22 Steve & Cathy Lasky
6 Don DeWolf & Gretchen Brierley	16 Robert & Margaret Duncan	24 Jeff & Nicole Jones
7 George & Pearl Richards Ray & Rosemary Benoit	17 Ron & Carolyn Rymers	24 Tracy Crow & Mary Jo Mastry
8 Phil & Bev Bowman	18 Bill & Agnes Sinclair	25 Kendrick & Claudia Blackwell
12 John & Kathy Paul	19 David & Chelley Tighe	26 Richard & Martha Goodwill
13 Dick & Vicki Burkhardt Richard & Shirley Earle	Stephanie & Joey Chambers	31 Steve Gramlich & Russ Kirk Charles & Cellia Plummer
	21 Michael & Liz Wright	



Mother's Day is May 13

Help Us Keep Our Books in Order

Martha Goodwill, treasurer

Every quarter, you receive a statement from the Cathedral of your financial contributions. Please review it and make sure it agrees with your records and with the intent of your contributions. Some people, for example, write one check to cover part of their pledge, a donation to a particular ministry, and a donation to the flower fund. We try hard

to make sure that that check gets allocated as you intended, but we need your help in double-checking. Questions? Corrections? Please call the office at 727-822-4173 and leave a message for Martha Goodwill.

If you make a contribution to our missioner in the Dominican Republic, Karen Carroll, or to the clergy discre-

tionary funds, please route that money through the office (checks payable to St. Peter's) with a note indicating where you intend it to go. If you simply give cash or a check to the recipient, that money is not tax-deductible and does not show up on your quarterly contribution statement. We'll be glad to credit your gift to the appropriate account.