



CROSSTOWN

November 2009

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

Waiting Until the Time Is Right — Right Now

The Very Rev. Stephen B. Morris, Dean

In last month's Crosstown I wrote about preparing early for the holiday season that is fast approaching. In a recent staff meeting, we began liturgical planning for Epiphany through Ash Wednesday. We feel compelled to plan ahead to ensure beauty in our worship — and in all that we do, for that matter.

However, for all the planning and work that point to the future, we, the Cathedral staff, are enthusiastically ready to embrace Thanksgiving through Christmas, liturgically and otherwise. It is beginning to feel as if this is what we've been waiting for.

I suppose this feeling is not unlike what the cosmic world felt like as the Incarnation approached reality. Think about it: From the foundation of the

world, all signs pointed to the time when God would enter our world in human

The world around us is waiting for us to respond to many of its needs.

form. The cosmos had been prepared by God and then waited until the time was right. Remember, friends, this is what Advent is all about.

It is not too early to begin planning for the end of November and the beginning of Advent. Spiritually adhering to a disciplined approach in terms of preparation ensures realizing the beauty of what God does for us in Jesus Christ.

The year is winding down quickly.

We have overcome many challenges this year and have done so with calm waiting and expectant hope. I look forward to 2010 in much the same way. Thank you for supporting our work this year. Thank you, also, for committing to making 2010 even better in terms of mission and ministry. The world around us is waiting for us to respond to many of its needs. We have been preparing to reach out even more in faithful response to serve God and God's people.

The time is ripe and we are ready. May the fullness of God's grace guide us into all peace as we celebrate God with us, Emanuel, today and in the days to come.

November 15: Celebrate the Cathedral's 40th Anniversary

We will celebrate St. Peter's anniversary year on Sunday, November 15. This year marks the 40th anniversary of our designation as the Cathedral for the newly formed Diocese of Southwest Florida.

It was on November 18, 1969, that the first convention of the newly formed Diocese of Southwest Florida voted to name St. Peter's its cathedral. The huge Diocese of South Florida had been broken up into three: Southwest, Central, and Southeast Florida.

Our 10:15 a.m. service that Sunday will use the liturgy we would have used

in 1969, from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. Our music will be from the 1940 Hymnal.

Thanks to parishioner Eric Peterson, we have the worship bulletins from the Sunday after convention designated St. Peter's the Cathedral, so we will be able to use the choral anthems and organ voluntaries that were used for those first services at St. Peter's as the Cathedral.

The actual anniversary



date, November 18, will be officially designated St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral Day in St. Petersburg. Thanks to parishioner and city council member Herb Polson for arranging for this proclamation.

This year also marks the 120th anniversary of the founding of the mission church that became St. Peter's, and the 110th anniversary of the completion of the original sanctuary.

Crosswinds

Start **Thanksgiving Day** with Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. Thursday, November 26. We'll sing the familiar Thanksgiving hymns and rejoice in all that God has given us.

* * *

Senior warden **Sheree Graves** was elected to diocesan Standing Committee at Diocesan Convention in October. **William Moore** was re-elected to another term on Diocesan Council. Many members of St. Peter's were involved at the convention opening Eucharist, including **Peter Barlow** as Bishop Smith's chaplain; **Sheree Graves** and **Marian McGrath** as vergers; **Dwight Thomas**, director of music ministries, as the organist; **Dean Morris**, as a eucharistic minister; and **Sarah Hill** from the Altar Guild.

* * *

Our Sunday morning class, "**A&E: Biography**" continues from 9 to 9:45 a.m. at St. Peter's Central. Come meet significant Anglicans and Episcopalians (that's the "A&E") who have shaped our faith. The class continues through December 13.

* * *

All are welcome to join the **Friends of St. Aelred** at 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 11, at St. Peter's Central. The program that evening is a viewing of the DVD of the Integrity Eucharist at General Convention last summer. This colorful and dramatic service blends many traditions in stirring worship.

Mark your calendars now for the next in St. Aelred's series of quarterly brunches. We'll gather after the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, January 10 — the Eve of the Feast of St. Aelred. The emphasis will be on "feast" as we enjoy another of these now-legendary meals. All are welcome!

* * *

The nine Episcopal churches in the

Bring in Your Pledge Cards on November 8

Susan Churuti, Stewardship Co-Chair

Sunday, November 8, is Pledge Sunday, the day we invite you to bring in your pledge card and make your financial commitment to St. Peter's for 2010.

Only about a quarter of our active membership makes a pledge. This year we want to encourage those who give but don't pledge to make that commitment in writing and fill in a pledge card.

This is particularly important this year as we seek a conventional mortgage on our new building. Our prospective lender wants to know how many members of our congregation have made a commitment to provide financial support. The more evidence we can show that our congregation is behind our efforts, the better the chances we'll obtain a mortgage.

A pledge commitment is also helpful as we finalize the operating budget for 2010 and have a realistic idea of what our income will be.

The last two weeks of October, gatherings were held in parishioners' homes for small groups to hear Dean Morris talk about our financial situation and the future of St. Peter's. It is an exciting time for all of us as we look forward to completing the interior of the new building and moving in early in 2010.

If you haven't received a pledge card, please call Pam or Martha in the Cathedral office (727-822-4173) and we'll be happy to send you one. Or pick one up at the Welcome Cart on Sundays. My stewardship co-chair, Lisa Smithson, and I are always happy to talk to you about our stewardship plans and how you can be involved.



Sisters' Plans for November

Sisters of the Circle invite all women to join them at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at St. Peter's Central for support, study and service. Here is our November lineup:

* **November 3:** Second session of reading *Praying with Francis of Assisi*. This book will be the focus of our first Tuesdays for the next several months.

* **November 10:** Jim Dawson, son of parishioner Marguerite Dawson, will explain and lead a Service of Universal Worship based on Sufi traditions. This devotion honors all of the world's religions through the lighting of candles. One represents God, and from it other candles representing all religious traditions are lit. Jim is a "cherag," similar to a deacon in our church, at "Rising Table" in Sarasota, as well as an Episcopalian.

* **November 17:** A fun exercise, "Getting to Know You Better." We'll take turns answering such questions as, "What is your favorite prayer?"

* **November 24:** We'll provide dinner for the families at Ronald McDonald House.

Get thee to the church on time! We return to standard time on Sunday, November 1. Turn your clock back one hour ("fall backward") when you go to bed on Saturday, October 31.

Christmas Is Coming!

Christmas is coming! Please support these holiday-related activities at the Cathedral:

* **The greenery sale** continues through November 15. Delivery of fresh greens is expected December 1 for holiday decorating and gift-giving. All proceeds support the music program. Order on Sundays or e-mail Marnie Long at ejl3ml100@earthlink.net.

The offerings include wreaths, garlands, baskets and swags.

* **The Friends of St. Aelred** are sponsoring a giving tree for the children at Resurrection House. Look for their tree at weekend worship services starting November 22. Pick a card off the tree with the Christmas wishes of a child, have fun shopping for that child, and return the card and the unwrapped gifts by December 13.



* **Mark your calendar** for our Christmas music and services. At 4 p.m. Sunday, December 13, the Cathedral Choir, guests and 20-piece chamber orchestra will present Part 1 of Handel's Messiah. At the 10:15 a.m. service December 20, we'll have the beloved service of Advent Lessons and Carols, followed by Holy Eucharist. Christmas Eve services will be at 5 p.m./Family Eucharist and 10:30 p.m./music, 11 p.m./Festal Eucharist. On Christmas Day our service of Holy Eucharist will be at 10 a.m.



Chapter Seeks Candidates

We will elect three new members to three-year terms on the Chapter, the board of directors of the Cathedral, at our Annual Meeting on January 24. There are two ways to seek election. One is to speak to the Nominating Committee, headed by outgoing Senior Warden Sheree Graves, which will present a slate of candidates. A second way is to submit a nominating petition. These are available in the church office. All candidates are encouraged to speak to Dean Morris and to Sheree about what is involved in serving on the Chapter; the time commitment, which is considerable; and the major efforts and challenges the Chapter will be dealing with over the next couple of years. Deadline for petitions is December 10.

Meanwhile, please congratulate Lisa Smithson, who was elected by the Chapter to fill the remaining two-year term of John Hoover, who resigned. Lisa is currently the co-chair of our stewardship committee.

Crosswinds, from page 2

St. Petersburg deanery — that includes us — will hold a **"Circle of Churches"** boutique from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. December 5 at St. Bede's, 2500 16th St. N, St. Petersburg. Artists, crafters, and sellers of collectibles are invited to reserve a space for \$20. Everyone else is invited to come and shop the boutique (think about Christmas gifts). Proceeds support St. Bede's charitable outreach. To register, call Nancy Morgan at (727) 526-8879 or e-mail Fla55Morgans@aol.com.

* * *

One of the first dates you can jot on your 2010 St. Peter's calendar is Saturday, January 16, at 6 p.m. That's the **next pot-luck dinner** brought to you by the FisherFolk. Join this friendly group for hospitality, delicious food (everybody brings a dish to pass), a chance to renew old friendships or meet new friends. Sometimes all we have time to say on Sunday morning is a quick "hi and bye," so it's a pleasure to have some sustained time to talk, catch up, welcome new faces, and relax together. No program, no obligation, just a pleasant Saturday night supper with people who want to welcome you. Watch for details closer to the event.

* * *

Do you get **our weekly e-mail blast**? Every Thursday we send out an e-mail with the latest news. If you'd like to get this update, please e-mail Judy Evans in the Cathedral office (jevans@spcathedral.com) and ask to be added to our e-mail list.

We also have a **telephone tree** that automatically dials every parishioner for whom we have a phone number and announces a recorded message — news, reminders, or alerts about changed plans. This is a good way for us to communicate with everyone, especially those who don't have computers. We use this automated dial-up system sparingly, so we won't become a nuisance, but we do want to stay in touch with you.

Convention Approves Budget

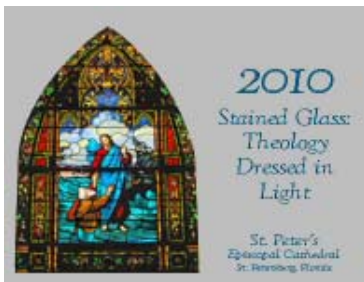
The 41st diocesan convention, meeting October 10, approved an adjusted \$2.8-million budget for 2010, lowering the apportionment rate parishes pay to the diocese from 10 percent to 9 percent of their yearly income.

The budget represents a reduction of \$533,000, mainly through changes in personnel and program.

According to diocesan canons, apportionment pays for programs, ministry, and staff costs. The diocese, in turn, gives 21 percent of its yearly revenue to the Episcopal Church.

Last year, as the recession hit Florida, Council temporarily lowered the apportionment rate for 2009 to 8 percent. The 2010 budget proposal assumed the apportionment rate would revert back to 10 percent.

Details about other convention actions are at www.dioceseswfl.org.



Our 2010 calendar, *Stained Glass: Theology Dressed in Light*, remains on sale for \$10 on Sundays at the Welcome Cart and during the week at the office. The calendar includes more than two dozen photographs of Cathedral windows; appropriate Biblical text; and explanatory material about the windows. The calendar project acknowledges 2009 as the 120th anniversary of the founding of St. Peter's; the 110th anniversary of the completion of the original sanctuary; and our 40th anniversary as the Cathedral for the Diocese of Southwest Florida.

The New Narthex Will Be Open Soon

The question many of you have been asking: "When will we get to start using the new narthex?"

The answer: Early November.

The details: We are awaiting final inspections of the building. That was expected to happen the last week of October. As soon as the inspections are final, we'll be able to enter via the narthex for worship services, Evensong, and other activities in the Cathedral.

Because the new entry includes a ramp for disabled access, we'll be able to get rid of the wooden ramp on the north side of the Cathedral.

We will then be able to occupy the narthex for "light usage" — i.e., temporary activities on the weekends, such as coffee hour, the Welcome Cart, nametags, tables for ministry activities on Sundays.

Please notice the new doors that open from the old narthex into the new one. These are the glass doors that formerly separated the narthex from the sanctuary. They turned out to be a perfect fit! The glass doors allow plenty of light into the old narthex, and now we can see out into the world from inside the Cathedral, and the world can see into the Cathedral.



Watch on Sundays for the opening of the new narthex. This will not be a secret; we'll be out there waving you in joyfully as the first step toward completing and occupying our new building!

A narthex is an entrance, lobby or vestibule to a church. The Greek word *narthex* means "giant fennel." It is a reference to the fancied resemblance of a porch to a hollow stem such as that of the fennel, left.



Our Worship Services Are Now Online!

View our worship services online! We now post the 10:15 a.m. service at our web site. Go to www.spcathedral.com and under "What We Do," click on "Worship Video Link." Or go to the St. Peter's Cathedral page on Facebook. This is a great way to stay in touch when you can't come to church . . . or to introduce St. Peter's to your friends or family. Luke Goodwill is doing the posting each week.

Also online:

* View a witty four-minute video history of the church at http://www.episcopalcafe.com/video/2009/10/church_history_in_4_minutes.html#more

* At www.episcopalchurch.org/aroundonetable, watch the video, then download *Around One Table: Exploring Episcopal Identity*. This is a new report, based on a survey of 2,569 Episcopalians, about what is important to us, what we believe, and where we think the church is going. (You can read the abbreviated version; the full version is there too if you want all the details.) This is a thoughtful report with good information that should generate lively conversation.

November Transitions

Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| 1 | Judith Arsenault
Patricia Gillis
William Gordon
Ellen Morris | Martha Goodwill
Reece Townsend | 23 | Danielle Singleton | |
| 2 | Cathy Rentschler
Vicki Burkhardt
Blanton Garnett
Jeff Jones | 10 | Joseph Pilkington
Lee Ramsey | 24 | Eddy Burns
Connor Gordon |
| 4 | Jenny Giles
Emily Williams | 11 | Susan Alford
Jeanne Fasan
Justin Grimshaw
Jeanne Tucker
Walt Williams | 25 | Cynthia Sinclair |
| 5 | Kelly Argiro
Adelia Samaha | 12 | Fred Boette
Penny Robbins
Warren Skinner-
Denning | 26 | Michael Adams
Minette Jones |
| 6 | Mary Matthews
George Scott | 13 | Suzanne Haines
Evan Randolph | 27 | Bev Taber-Bowman
Caitlin Garnett
Heather
Hollingsworth |
| 7 | Andy Munkittrick
Cammeron Townsend | 15 | Hadley Heindel | 28 | Karen Carroll
Susan Churuti |
| 8 | Ida Brophy
John Giles
Cellia Plummer | 16 | Kassidy Gums | 29 | Barbara Wagner-Beyhl
Jean Ceaser
Christina Erin Jones
Haviland Kebler
Cassie Ramsey |
| 9 | Vicki Fernandez
Jameel Zabadi | 17 | Beverly Adkins
Ellen Hyland | 30 | Rachel Wright |
| | | 21 | Joe Benoit
Alexandra Blacker
Myra Witko | | |

Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 3 | Dallas and Diane
Holtman | 20 | Jeff and Beth
Kirkwood |
| 14 | Barry and Dilia
Singleton | 21 | Carl and LaNona
Robinson |
| 15 | Jack and Susan Regan | 23 | Fred and Susan
Stansbery |
| 17 | Bill and Sally Kebler | 27 | Paul and Dede Natale |

Baptism

Isobel Benoit

New Members

Frank Cramer
Judy Ferrara

Deaths

Willard Bennett
Howard "Buddy" Rogers

La Vida Nueva for Our Cathedral Bus



The Cathedral's former bus has a new life! We sold the bus to the Diocese, and it is now used by our diocesan Hispanic ministry. Bishop Dabney Smith blessed the bus at Diocesan Convention last month. Members of the diocesan Hispanic ministry team stand at the bus during convention: Archdeacon Dennis McManis, the Rev. Ann McLemore, Debby Tripp, Joan Kline, and the Rev. Benjamin Santana.

Photo by Jim DeLa

Outreach for November: UTO Thanks You

Chelley Tighe

Our outreach opportunity for November is the United Thank Offering, a women's ministry of the national church. On Sunday, November 8, our own UTO members will greet you at the door with envelopes for your contributions. Every cent UTO collects nationally — about \$2.5-million each year — is given away as grants to alleviate human suffering and directly affect the lives of women and children.

Several congregations in our diocese have received UTO grants in recent years. St. John's, Pine Island, received \$10,150 to support its work with Latino children at a mobile home park. Holy Spirit, Safety Harbor, received a grant to buy a bus to support outreach to migrant workers. Please be generous!

Each month our Outreach Ministry invites you to participate in assisting a particular charity or need in our community. We appreciate your support.



Let Our Pastoral Caregivers Take Care of You

Please call the office to let us know when you are ill or will be entering the hospital so we can visit you and put you on the prayer list. The hospitals are prohibited by privacy laws from telling us when you are there. The only way we know is if you or a family member lets us know when you enter and when you return home.

Our pastoral care ministry is eager to provide flowers to those who are unable to come to church and meals to those who are just out of the hospital and need a little "TLC" once they're home. Please let us know how we can care for you. Call the office at (727) 822-4173.



One-Stop Help for the Homeless

Kip Corriveau

The third annual Project Homeless Connect will be Saturday, January 30, at the Coliseum in St. Petersburg. This is a one-stop shop of health and human services for homeless individuals and families.

Under one roof the project provides food, clothing, bike repairs, employment and housing counseling, legal advice, haircuts, massages, vocational and educational counseling, photo IDs, medical care, backpacks, spiritual counseling, and much more. About 2,000 people were served in each of the last two years.

Last year 50 medical providers, 70 service providers, and 500 volunteers were involved. Among the participants this time are the VA Hospital at Bay Pines, WorkNet Pinellas, the Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless, the City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, and many individuals, organizations, and charities. The Sathya Sai Baba Service Organization is dedicating over 200 doctors, specialists, nurses, and volunteers, and St. Anthony's Hospital will provide lab work and other related medical services.

The goal of Project Homeless Connect is to provide easy access to services that support the homeless on and off the streets. About 106 cities across the country sponsor these annual one-day events, as do several other countries.

The project welcomes volunteers and donations of both cash and supplies. For information, visit their web site at <http://www.pinellasconnect.org/> or speak to me, Kip Corriveau.

Friday Night at the Movies

Eddy Burns

Join us for free movies and popcorn at 7 p.m. Fridays at St. Peter's Central. Here's the November lineup:

November 6: *Walk on Water* (Israel/Germany 2005): Young Israeli member of the Mossad discovers family secrets. Psychological spy thriller that challenges the audience's own prejudices.

November 13: *Amistad* (U.S., 1999): Director Steven Spielberg tells the story of the takeover of a slave ship by its captives and an historic trial in Boston. With Anthony Hopkins as John Quincy Adams.

November 20: *Howard's End* (U.K., 1992): Based on E.M. Forster's novel and directed by James Ivory, with Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson. An allegory on the question of who will ultimately inherit England.

November 27: Thanksgiving weekend, no movie.

Comments and suggestions: eddyburns@aol.com.



Are you an Episco-ninja? Visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eT-APVyFcq4> for an amusing video, **The Episcopal Church Who Are We (2.0)**. It describes us as "a covert agency of Christ-like ninjas" who follow Jesus Christ, "God disguised as a ninja to train us in the arts of compassion, forgiveness and love."

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.: Coffee 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 café outside the Cathedral

6 p.m.: Holy Eucharist and contemplative prayer

Last Sunday of the month, 6 p.m.: Choral evensong

Monday through Friday

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, 12:05 p.m.

Holy Eucharist and Healing, Wednesdays, 12:05 p.m.

Visiting/getting in touch

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The Rev. Lynde E. "Ted" May IV, assisting priest

The Rev. Peter W. Fleming Jr., assisting priest

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At any time after hours you have a pastoral emergency, please
call Dean Morris on his cell phone: (727) 743-1614.

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Building
consecrated
1899



St. Peter's
serving God since 1889



Cathedral
since
1969