



St. James Cathedral The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

Cathedral Voices

September 2008

Voice of the warden

T.J. Ferrantella
Warden for Administration

From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

Luke 12:48

That's how fellow Chapter member, Richard Kelley, prefaced his comments during a special Chapter meeting that concluded with the decision to pay \$202,427 to Cathedral Counseling Center. It was a meeting where I believe I saw hearts and minds change "before my very eyes."

After the meeting, Joy Rogers (who, even after a year, hasn't lost her ability to see through "new eyes") gave me her observations of what happened (because I walked out of that meeting totally amazed and confused). She pointed out that Chapter members reconciled differing beliefs and values of money, greed, fairness and stewardship, and she observed that Chapter members always considered the St. James community as their first touchstone for all conversation and action.

A sign above the south garden entrance reminds us that the Cathedral Counseling Center was once housed in the Cathedral

see **Warden** page 5



■ **At the Cathedral** A tour of the Cathedral organ

Moving forward with changes, opportunities

The Very Rev. Joy E. Rogers | *Provost of the Cathedral*

At the July Chapter meeting and at a staff retreat later in the month, parish leaders engaged a strong conversation about the status and realities and implications of our current structures for ministry at St. James. Making a transition means discovering how our passions about ministry can move to programs that further our mission.

In the last issue of *Cathedral Voices* I wrote about our challenge to move past our long-standing transitional dilemma of being too big, in numbers

and resources, to be an effective parish in a pastoral model, and too small to establish the organizational infrastructures that will allow us to be more faithful and productive in accomplishing a Gospel mission. We have for decades hovered at an average Sunday attendance of 200 worshippers, the Cathedral's story in those years has been full of the tensions and leader burnout that characterize transitional congregations, and we need to move into a more stable and effective way

see **Changes** page 4

Finding a faith community in the city

Teresa Bell | Communications Ministry

Like many who have passed through the doors this summer, I am new to St. James Cathedral. Admittedly, I walked by the front door on many Sundays before I ventured inside for the first time. The thought of being the “new” person can be intimidating, I guess. Still the Cathedral seemed to call to me, beckoning me inside, and I’m glad I answered the call.

I arrived early that first week, worried I might not get a seat. I found one. Most churches struggle with the issue of attendance nowadays, and St. James is no exception. I

imagine that in days past there were larger welcoming committees, and more people to fulfill the role of welcoming

me into the fold. Very sincere and warm faces greeted me, but if I was waiting for the red carpet to roll out, it wasn’t going to happen. I recognized that the effort to get to know people and to become an active member was predominantly my responsibility.

What I anticipated would be “big city” impersonal was not at all. Instead I found a sense of community within this large city. I found people putting action behind their thanks to God for life’s blessings. Once I got settled in, I noticed that there are a lot of people working very hard at St. James to make a difference in the lives of others. So I rolled up my sleeves and jumped in to start helping. One of the many reasons I like being a member



Teresa Bell

of St. James is that I know I can make a difference here, and there are so many here who are looking to make a difference in their community.

St. James Cathedral has embraced a Christian “call to action.” At the same time, we are not exclusionary, and we try to live the motto “All Are Welcome.” We welcome many walks of life, and respect the beliefs of other faiths, as I saw during the interfaith service I attended.

There are also many opportunities to strengthen our spiritual formation, and to continue our religious education, through meetings with visiting guests, and attending special events. We also have a strong religious education program for children, which I am hoping my nephews and niece can attend in the fall. The Cathedral also has great historical significance, as I learned recently, it is older than the city of Chicago. These are some of the reasons I remain loyal to St. James Cathedral.

To quote a popular Batman movie, “It’s not who you are on the inside, it’s what you do that defines you.” I like to think we are doing our part to make this a better city and a better world, and in so doing, we define ourselves as Christians. So I will continue to work hard to help St. James meet our goals, even if it eventually leads to worrying about whether or not I can get a seat on Sundays. ■



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Cathedral Voices

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Comments, suggestions and offers to volunteer on future issues are encouraged. Contact Lucia Cuevas at the Cathedral office **312.751.3573** or **lcuevas@saintjamescathedral.org**.

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St. James parish, founded in 1834, is the oldest Episcopal congregation in the city of Chicago. We are a diverse, 400-member parish in the bustling North Michigan Avenue neighborhood and the Cathedral for the diocese of Chicago.

Cathedral Clergy & Full-Time Staff

Bishop The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee

Asst. Bishop The Rt. Rev. Victor Scantlebury

Provost The Very Rev. Joy E. Rogers

Vicar The Rev. Peter Siwek

Deacons The Rev. Jackie Lynn
The Rev. Judith Mason

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Cathedral Wardens

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The Rev. Dr. Elaine S. Caldbeck
The Rev. Dr. David H. Fisher
The Rev. Tyrone Fowlkes
The Very Rev. Gary R. Hall
The Very Rev. J. Robert Orpen Jr.
The Rev. David Stanford

Godspeed, Fr. Peter: A parishioner's reflection

Martha Miller



When I read the letter from Vicar Peter Siwek to the St. James Cathedral community, reporting his decision to leave us on October 5 to embark on spiritual discernment of God's call to his next ministry, I was struck by the depth of faith that decision must have required.

I know the old saying, "Courage is fear that has said its prayers." It makes perfect sense. But how many of us have prayed enough, to earn courage enough, to say, right out loud, "I need to go where it's quiet now, so that I can discern God's next beckoning."

The value of such retreat saturates Scripture. It's never surprised me that Jesus had faith enough to withdraw from his friends to be alone with his Father. The same goes for Elijah, who headed up to that quiet mountaintop, so he'd be sure to hear God's voice, even if it were still and small.

But that depth of faith is extraordinary for the 21st-century likes of us. We revel in the distractions of our busyness. Silence scares us. So does solitude. We define our days more by what we do than by who we are...more

by the answers we can offer than by the answers that we seek.

I was moved by Fr. Peter's courage. It sparked reflection on these past six years. Peter and I arrived at St. James at almost exactly the same time. He was freshly ordained. I was a tentative visitor, wondering if (at last!) I'd found my spiritual home. There was comforting camaraderie in our mutual newbie-status, as we tossed each other hints about which new face matched up with which new name.

At the same time, Peter swung into pastor-mode on my behalf, introducing me to others (when he was certain of their names!), and offering me ways I could be useful to the St. James community. The latter bit of pastoral sensitivity may have been the most generous of all.

It startled me. It was more than welcoming a stranger to God's table. He was trusting me to pitch into the parish's important work. I didn't feel like a visitor any more. First I joined the St. James family. Not long after that (via Peter's "Inquirers' Class"), I joined the Episcopal Church. I'll always be grateful.

A thousand "Peter Moments" popped into my mind—sacramental, serious, silly, sad, celebratory. Many featured laughter, hugs and high-fives. But among the delights of these years has been my privilege to watch Peter grow into the priest he'd yearned to be since he was a little boy:

The awe in his immaculate tenor voice as he chants the Eucharistic Prayer. The growing depth of his pulpit messages. His endless generosity to those needing pastoral attention, even those who don't yet know how to ask for it. The tenderness in his eyes, as he entrusts the Eucharist to outstretched hands, particularly those of the very young and the very old. His grace in shepherding us through the transition time, as the Cathedral community sought new leadership. Those mental pictures are permanent for me.

"When one door closes, God opens another." People tell you that (to the point of cliché) in times of transition. But they don't tell you about the hallways—the dark uncertainties that lie between the door behind your back and the door that opens onto your next well-lighted place.

Peter's decision to accept God's invitation into the hallway of dedicated discernment—trusting that uncertainty will be transformed into clear-eyed mission for his next ministry—teaches me a lot I need to know about faith. I am further in his debt.

As Fr. Peter embarks on this new adventure, he says he'll take us with him, in his heart and his prayers. I know he'll be in ours. ■

Changes *continued from page 1*

to be a congregation with focus and identity, and structures that hold our passions and give our people clear ways to connect, commit and participate.

I wrote last month:

At an average Sunday attendance of about 250, a new kind of parish emerges. Staff is larger, decision making is more diffused, with staff and lay leaders in particular arenas authorized to develop their areas and accountable to the vision and policies of a vestry (or chapter). Programs are offered that meet the needs of various constituencies, programming that provide the smaller contexts for relationships to develop. More folk can find a way into the Church's life through opportunities for faith formation, outreach activities and community building events. The expectations are high for excellence in worship, formation and outreach.

Growing in numbers will mean growing in our ability to incorporate



Provost Joy Rogers

As we prepare to bid farewell to Vicar Peter Siwek and to thank him for all that he has given to the people of St. James, we also are asked to ponder the kinds

of staff support we will need to be the resources for ministries that will be determined by our own time for discernment, tested by our conversations, and then guided by parishioners who understand how they are called and empowered to lead.

Every congregation has basic needs; we already know we can do better in many areas and there are some that we can explore together now. This fall, I would like to call together a group to consider how we might better attend to our pastoring of one

My other primary concern is with a larger notion of 'faith formation' for both adults and children. We need a wider range to meet a diverse set of needs and circumstances. We need to be more creative and flexible about how we attend to deepening relationships with God, with each other, and with our beautiful and broken world in light of the Gospel. This conversation begins in September, both with our reconstituted Stewardship Ministry, and with a process for a corporate discernment being led by David Fisher and Jackie Lynn.

There are plans afoot to enhance our ministry with children—renovated space for classrooms and a much more attractive and safer nursery is at the top of list and we will know more soon about timing. We are looking at a model for a children's chapel for ages three to seven, that will give our little ones an opportunity to hear a gospel story, to sing, to pray, in ways that may have more meaning for them during the 10:30 service. Then they can join the rest of us for Eucharist.

To be an authentic community in our consumer driven culture is no easy task; we are socialized to be users of what others produce, rather than participants in an enterprise where we all have something to offer. The model of the program church offers the congregation of St. James a way to be a Church that is energized by many leaders, open to the passions of us all, and fueled always by a Holy Spirit stirring us to newness and to God. ■

“I see amazing examples of how St. James people can minister to one another; but we need a way to embrace so many who fall through the cracks and do not understand how to ask for help.”

new members, to empower new leaders, and to develop new programs that are meaningful and accessible to our people.

Reorganizing ourselves for a new way of being a congregation is not going to be a top down provost run process—our programs will emerge out of our collective wisdoms, passions, energies and gifts. Reconstituting a Parish Council that is made up of congregational leaders who facilitate various ministry arenas and coordinate our larger common life will take time and patience and a process that allows many to be heard, and challenges all of us to truly listen to each other.

another—to give better structure to how clergy connect with individual parishioner needs, as well as find ways to authenticate lay ministries, provide appropriate training, and communicate the possibilities to all. I see amazing examples of how St. James people can minister to one another; but we need a way to embrace so many who fall through the cracks and do not understand how to ask for help. If you are interested in being part of this conversation, if you are touched by the need to make something happen, send me an email.

Warden *continued from page 1*

undercroft. Both the now-cancelled redevelopment project and the Counseling Center's impressive growth led to the decision to vacate the undercroft space and secure new space.

In October 2005, former Dean Blackman signed a letter making a financial commitment to Cathedral Counseling Center to assist with its capital campaign for new space. The commitment was authorized by Chapter and called for an initial payment of \$100,000, with ten subsequent annual payments of \$25,000 each, that could be discounted if paid in advance. While the initial payment of \$100,000 was made, the decision to begin the annual payments was stalled, possibly by misunderstanding, possibly by other factors. Some felt future payments were contingent upon successful completion of the redevelopment project. Others felt Chapter had made an unconditional commitment to the mission of the Counseling Center.

If one were to review only the written record, the commitment was unconditional. However, the matter was mired in controversy and confused by different understandings.

We couldn't approach a decision to pay this as if it were a routine matter that simply involved interpreting the

written record, writing a check, and dropping it in the mail.

A large volume of data about the matter was distributed to each Chapter member in advance of the June 24 special meeting called to resolve this matter. This meeting began with each Chapter member expressing an opinion on a compromise resolution and, in doing so, consensus began to appear—the amount should be paid, in full. The compromise resolution was voted down and, without skipping a beat, a new resolution passed quickly to authorize immediate payment of the full amount, taking advantage of the discount option for early payment.

Surprisingly, everyone seemed to feel “good” about the conclusion—even those who voted against the resolution. They saw a transparent process of consensus building and group decision making that allowed all opinions to be considered. While the matter is now behind us, anyone who would like to review the same written record that Chapter members considered is welcome to do so. Just send me



T.J. Ferrantella

an email at tj@old-town.us and I'll forward a copy to you.

There are times when I become very frustrated in my role as senior warden because so many issues seem to distract us from what I consider to be the “first business” of any church. That is: To draw more people to the Church, to bring more people into God's presence. This “first business” of the Church is much more difficult in a post-modern world where we have been given vast scientific knowledge to explain much of what was accepted as “God's will” in an earlier day.

Recently, I've been fascinated by the Templeton Foundation asking scholars, “Does science make belief in God obsolete?” Most answered this question with a strong, resounding, “No” or “Of course not.”

The Templeton project reminds me that far more is required of us today than in earlier times. Precisely because we've been given much through the scholarship of modern science, the task of drawing others into the Presence becomes more demanding. The Templeton project confirms for me that there is important work helping others find meaning and relevance in that “which passeth all understanding” and to do so in a manner that respects both a thinking person's intellectual sensibilities and a praying person's spiritual sensibilities.

At St. James Cathedral, much has been entrusted to us and even more is demanded of us. Our June 24 meeting confirmed for me that the Cathedral community is strong and capable. Now, it is time to move forward with a sharp focus on our mission to draw others to this place where we find meaning and relevance—and each other. ■

For more information on the Templeton study, visit www.templeton.org/belief

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To subscribe, visit our website www.saintjamescathedral.org.

Sunday School begins Sept. 21

Judy Bross

St. James Sunday School welcomes all children to participate in one of three levels of weekly classes beginning Sunday, September 21 from 9:30 to 10:20 am. Combining curriculum offered by the national Episcopal Church with lesson plans newly developed for this year by our teachers, including “stewardship of the earth” and “exploring our Jewish roots”, classes focus on both scripture and prayer as well as attention to the needs of each student.

“What really seems to impress the kids is the faithfulness of their teachers as well as their parents who get them there each Sunday,” Dean Niedenthal, coordinator of Youth Ministry, said. “They know that we are there for them, and teaching them faithfulness is important to our work as well.”

The dedicated and talented team of Kathy Garness and Vinnie Orpen offers Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a hands-on program focusing on the stories of Jesus’ life for children from preschool to the second grade. Considered one of the finest teaching methods for young children, and requiring intensive teacher training, the program provides various ways for children to present and understand Bible stories, as well as learn the basics of liturgy and church life.

Karen Hafstrom and Elizabeth Love teach the middle level for children from second to fourth grade. The Episcopal Church Curriculum which explores the lectionary and the seasons of the church is combined with emphasis on love, caring for others and kindness. Environmental stewardship will be the new focus, and art projects are always highlights for the students.

Phil and Anna Debush, and Dean Niedenthal teach level three for students from the fifth grade through high school, adapting both the Episcopal Church Curriculum and Living the Good News, a program developed for several Protestant denominations. This year’s focus will



be on the Old Testament. Often class adjourns early enough for camaraderie and conversation at Starbucks before the 10:30 service.

To Niedenthal, who has headed the Sunday School for 17 years, it is a happy coincidence that the first day of Sunday School falls on Sandwich Sunday. “For five years this ministry to the homeless has been our primary outreach opportunity at St. James, and something that kids and parents work at together. It truly teaches what we preach and what we teach in our classes.” ■

CATHEDRAL FINANCES

Financial Report

through July 31, 2008

Profit & Loss Statement

Income	\$	469,438
Expense	\$	557,600
Net Gain/Loss	(\$	88,162)

2008 Pledges (172 pledges)

Total Pledged	\$	319,356
Total Received	\$	149,238

Fulfill your pledge automatically and online

Pledge payments and other contributions to the cathedral can be automatically deducted from your bank account. Contact Lucia Cuevas at 312.751.3573 for an authorization form.

Donations, including pledge payments, can also be made online. Just go to the website and click on **Giving & Stewardship**.

For more information, contact cathedral finance and operations manager Lucia Cuevas at **312.751.3573** or **lcuevas@saintjamescathedral.org**

The celebration of a ministry

Sunday, September 28 | 12:00 noon

Join us after the 10:30 service for a thanksgiving and celebration of the ministry of Vicar Peter Siwek. Peter’s last Sunday at St. James will be October 5, and he will preach and preside at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services.



Voice of the treasurer

George Culver | Assistant Treasurer

Our Cathedral treasurer, Elsa Vaintzettel, and I deal with the financial issues of this wonderful parish. The best part of our work is the weekly counting of offerings down to the last cent. We are often surprised at the generosity of our fellow pledgers, friends and visitors.

A few (hopefully) illuminating items: The smallest pledge offering that we enter regularly is twenty-five cents in cash. The “best” way to give to St. James is the one that you prefer. If you want to put pennies in the big giving box at the back of the Cathedral and roll the drum so that they clatter to the bottom that’s fine. My son Leland likes this method.

The easiest way for the Cathedral to receive money is in the form of a monthly check made automatically by your bank. It is good for the cash flow of the Cathedral. It removes your need to remember to do it. It lessens our “suspense” as we try to cover the bills and as we hope that everyone will fulfill their pledge by the end of the year. (Please note that monthly bank checks is not the method that either of your treasurers employ so please do not feel that you need to change.) We understand that circumstances can get in the way of pledge fulfillment. Let us know if you have trouble and we will make the necessary adjustments.

We always welcome your questions and comments. We thank you for your faith and trust. ■

Cathedral calendar of services & events

All events are in the Cathedral unless otherwise indicated. For updates and more information, visit www.saintjamescathedral.org.

Weekly Services

SUN	8:00 am	Said Eucharist (Cathedral)
	10:30 am	Choral Eucharist (Cathedral)
WED	5:30 pm	Said Eucharist and Healing Service (St. Andrew Chapel)
	6:00 pm	Bible Study (Room 200)
THU/FRI	12:10 pm	Said Eucharist (St. Andrew Chapel)

September 2008

MON 1	Cathedral Office closed for Labor Day	
SUN 7	The full Cathedral Choir returns at the 10:30 service	
	12:00 pm	After-Hours Lunch Group (meet in narthex) Contact Lynne Gordon at lynne.gordon@sbcglobal.net
TUE 9	5:30 pm	Cathedral Chapter Meeting (Room 308)
WED 10		Central City Housing Ventures Party for Residents Volunteers are needed to help with a dinner for residents of The Studios. Contact Duncan Moore at 773.477.4312
SUN 14	Baptism at the 10:30 service	
THU 18	6:30 pm	Finding Your Voice Workshop (Burrill Hall) Sponsored by Cathedral Counseling Center. For more information, visit cathedralcounseling.org
SAT 20	8:30 am	Millennium Development Goals Summit St. Edmund's Episcopal Church, 6105 S. Michigan (<i>see back page</i>)
SUN 21	The first day of Sunday School	
	9:15 am	Sandwich Sunday (Diocesan Center Lobby)
WED 24	12:00 pm	Book Group (Montgomery Place) Contact Judy Kirk at jbirdjudy@sbcglobal.net
SUN 28	12:00 pm	Farewell Party for Vicar Peter Siwek

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Mary Ammermann	11 Jerry Demuth	26 Katherine Eley
2 Scott Fehlan	19 Tamara Jefferson	27 Sandra Lowe
5 Matthew Kranstover	20 Judi Mason	Frank Hicks
6 Noelle Eichenold	Ann McKee	Laura Patterson
Loya Darling	Judith Alleyne-Yelacic	28 Mary Downie
7 Deborah Heau	23 Katherine Burton	Andrew Eley
8 Anne Gartner	Dean Niedenthal	30 Catherine McEnerney
9 Charles Hamilton	24 Marion Johnson	Xander Allison
Cecilia Mowatt	Camille Smith	
10 Hilton Prewitt	Marie Ellis	



CATHEDRAL VOICES
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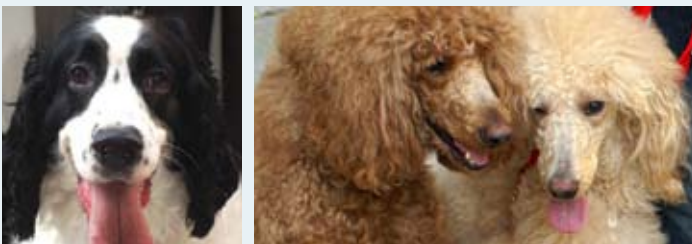
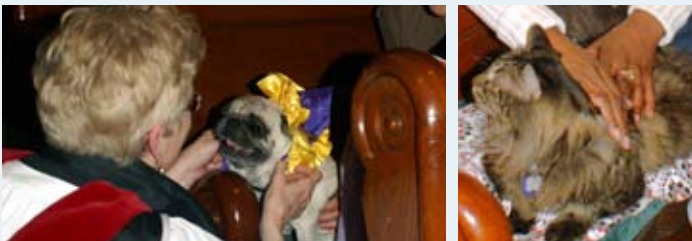


Millennium Development Goals Summit slated

Saturday, September 20, 2008
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
St. Edmund's Episcopal Church
6105 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee, bishop of Chicago, invites all Episcopalians in the Diocese of Chicago to attend this important day focusing on the Millennium Development Goals with three nationally acclaimed speakers in a series of workshops and panel discussions. The cost is \$10 for delegations of three or more—and includes lunch! Bishop Lee will preside and preach at a Eucharist. For more information, contact Deacon Jackie Lynn at epfnational@ameritech.net or 847.502.5921.

Attention members of Episcopal Church Women: This event takes the place of the ECW Fall Forum. Please join us! For more information, call the ECW office at 312.751.4200 or contact ecw@episcopalchicago.org. ■



A blessing for all creatures

Sunday, October 5 | 3:00 pm

Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis and our brothers and sisters who give us so much and ask for so little in return. Whether you have an animal companion or not—join us for the annual Blessing of the Animals and choral evensong. Gather on the plaza at 2:45 for a procession of our furry, feathered and finned friends to the Cathedral sanctuary for the service.

The St. James Cathedral congregation is an intentional community of Christians who are inquiring and compassionate people who care about each other and their roles in the world, seek spiritual and intellectual growth and work to improve the lives of others.