

We're all getting older -- a lot older. Believe it or not, there are more than 60,000 people in America over the age of 100.

And now a new demographic group has been identified -- known as **Supercentenarians** -- people 110 years old like our **Si Simmons**. Si was born in 1895 and passed the ripe-old-age of 100 a long time ago. He was already a mature 32 with responsibilities when St. Augustine's parish was being born in 1927.

This week Si celebrates his 110th birthday on Friday, October 14th. Parties are being planned and a few surprises are being whispered about. But here's what we know for sure.

- Si's grandson, Wally and his wife will fly in on Thursday and share all the birthday events with Grampa.

- Tuesday, the 11th at 10:30 am in the Suncoast Manor Activities Room, musical entertainment is by the band that is everybody's favorite at Suncoast. This concert is presented in honor of Si's birthday and community friends are invited.

- Friday, the 14th at 2:30 pm is the time for Suncoast Manor's Birthday Party for Si -- with decorations, speeches, cake and ice cream. All of Si's friends from the Manor and St. Augustine's are invited.

- Friday, Oct. 14th at 6:00 pm at the Piccadilly Cafeteria, it's "His 110th Birthday" party sponsored by the Men's Brotherhood of this church. Everyone is invited. Buy your own meal (with a 10% discount) and celebrate in a private dining room.

"We've had birthday parties for Si before," says **Nate Caines**. "But with this being his 110th birthday..." Nate went to Men's Brotherhood president, **Bobby Allen**, who made all the arrangements with The Piccadilly Cafeteria. **Tom Krug** was responsible for getting invitations out. Nate ordered the birthday cake. **Mordecai Walker** will create a scrapbook with greetings from friends and good photos.

Bobby Allen says this occasion is different than most. "Si is so alive and has so much wisdom. We're throwing him a party because we're proud of him. And we want him to know that he has a big church family that loves him very much."

Where Are We Going? And How Do We Get There?

Those are the questions essential to Senior Warden **Mary Clowers**. Tomorrow night our church's vestry members begin the work of redefining this parish. This is a time of major evolution for St. Augustine's and, as the chair of the elected body, Mary says the vestry needs to be addressing those two key questions at their October session.

Mary feels the group needs to begin by deciding what kind of parish St. Augustine's wants to become.

- * a whole-family church with a young adults' group, a children's nursery and multiple Sunday School rooms?

- * primarily a worshiping body with new styles of liturgy, praise music, and the sounds of a contemporary band?

- * could St.A's be a church primarily for adults, a resource site specializing in spirituality and religious education for grownups?

- * or maybe a parish emphasizing outreach, to our own neighborhood, to Britt House and to Your Place?

Another question the vestry will wrestle with: "Given the sometimes overlooked resources we have here, what kind of parish could we evolve into?"

Bishop Lipscomb will soon return to Florida and he will meet again with vestry members to provide his own perspective and guidance for our future.

Asked about the bishop's promised consultant, Mary said, "Yes, we will have a consultant work with us." But she is a bit cautious.

"I've worked with consultants before and they tell you 'Do this and this and this.'"

"They can give you an overview of what's needed for a good plan. But no consultant knows our church -- and we do."

It all begins at a big table in Ford Hall at 7:30 Monday night.

It's God's October Surprise

On October 13th just before sunrise, Jewish, Muslim and Christian prayers for peace and understanding will go up from the four corners of St. Petersburg. Jews and Muslims will spend the hours that follow in prayer and fasting.

For Jews this is the most holy day of Yom Kippur and for Muslims their holy month of Ramadan.

Because this confluence of holy days in both the Jewish and Muslim faith traditions is so rare, this month is being called *God's October Surprise*.

St. Augustine's and other Christian churches are invited to gather with Jews and Muslims for a multi-faith celebration at sunset (7 pm) on Thursday, October 13th. We will break-the-fast of the day at the Campus Activities Center on the USF St. Petersburg campus with a *Bountiful Break-Fast*. "When our faith communities break bread together, we also break down the walls of ignorance and fear that keep us apart," said Kate Fagan, Rabbinic Chaplain at Bayfront Medical Center.

There will be music, dance, story telling at the

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