

October 9, 2005

World Renowned Old Testament Course Here Oct. 20

"I have the class books and I've watched the videos. They are so great!" This is from **Virginia Ryan** describing her reaction to *Invitation to the Old Testament*, the Disciple Bible Study that is coming to St. Augustine's. Virginia will be class leader/facilitator. "I can't wait to get started."

- Disciple Bible Study begins Thursday, October 20th • Class is 5:30 till 7:00 PM
- Meets in Ford Hall conference room • Class materials including student guide cost \$10
- No previous study of the Old Testament required. • Register by Oct. 10th with Judy Krug (525-5044).

"There's Nothing Left," He Said, "Nothing." Not So.

This past week it happened, finally. Machinery and demolition teams arrived and in very short order they utterly cleared the site that was once Holy Cross Episcopal Church. Today there is only scraped land, not even a parking lot. A few new signs are promising a housing subdivision. All those well maintained buildings, empty shells for months, and rented office space before that, are gone.

"I drove over on Saturday to search for a missing piece of door hardware and there was nothing there, absolutely nothing," **Tom Krug** said.

Many of us have known Holy Cross when it was full of song and prayer and worshipers. We've known that congregation when its people worked their way through travails, then the trauma of closing their doors.

Recently, however, we got to know another Holy Cross. Men and women from St. Augustine's prowled its abandoned spaces over a 10 day span, claiming crosses and hymnals and sanctuary lights so they might have new lives here. Then we removed windows and light fixtures, ceiling tile, loudspeakers and some extraordinary doors. Eventually we moved an entire wall to re-partition our sanctuary and parish hall. Our familiarity with Holy Cross continued as we moved much of that "tangible Holy Cross" over to St. Augustine's to be re-treasured in our church.

"We got to know the place so well," Tom Krug says, "that sometimes I thought I heard voices speaking out from behind the pews. I hope maybe they were thanking us for giving a second life to parts of that church."

Now Holy Cross is gone.

Well, maybe not. Later this fall when we have completed the re-installation of ceiling tile and doors, displayed the stained glass windows, and polished the new cross on our rooftop, then it may be time to say "thank you" to the members of the former Holy Cross Parish. We'll have to find a way to express that.

Holy Cross closed, demolished and forgotten? Not at St. Augustine's!

God's October Surprise *Continued from page 1*

break-fast. And also wonderful food – food representing the Jewish and Muslim culinary traditions.

Chaplain Kate said she hopes to see friends from St. Augustine's at the Thursday evening break-fast. "You were all so eager to learn about the Passover Seder. Here's a second opportunity to experience another religious celebration."

Take a non-perishable food item with you to the break-fast. This food will be distributed by the Free Clinic Food Bank.

" ... more* from St. Augustine's" is for members and friends of one courageous Episcopal Church in south St. Petersburg, Florida. This newsletter is about recognition, spiritual attitude, candor, nixing hearsay and, yes, unashamed cheer leading. Members Judy and Tom Krug are co-editors; Mordecai Walker is co-founder. Some 65 parishioners are essential to the project. Every issue is available at the church and online at www.staugstpete.org our web site for church-shoppers.