

Dabney Smith Elected Bishop Coadjutor, First Ballot



Dramatic Theater, complete with a most surprising finale. No, there was no white smoke emerging from a chimney watched by the world press. But the newly refurbished bells of St. Peter's Cathedral rang out at 11:55 yesterday morning, declaring that **The Rev. Dr. Dabney T. Smith** had been chosen as the bishop to succeed the present bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida. Fr. Smith comes to us from New Orleans where he is Rector of Trinity Church. Now half of all diocesan bishops and standing committees in the 110 dioceses of the Episcopal Church must consent to Smith's election. Consecration of the coadjutor is scheduled for May 17, 2007. The coadjutor serves as an assistant bishop for a maximum of three years until the current presiding Bishop, **John B. Lipscomb**, resigns.

*Inquirers' Class
for Everyone
Today at 11:00
Ford Hall*

January's New Emphasis

Training for Parish Ministries

After some 12 weeks of regular Sunday Morning Adult Education Classes, our emphasis at St. A's is going to shift for a month or so.

Fr. Robin says that there are positions that need to be actively accepted by additional church members. January begins some active recruiting for **adult Eucharistic Ministers** – those who, like Mary Clowers, assist the priest with distributing communion, both at church services and on visits to those who are shut in at home or at the hospital.

"We could use three more adults for this ministry," Fr. Whitlock says. "And those people will need very specific training."

This church needs some additional **Lay Readers**, both *adult and older youth*. They too will get training in reading aloud for others' comprehension: pronunciation, pacing, posture, eye contact, interpretation, and effective use of microphones. Volunteer readers seem best at this. Fr. Robin's assumption is that readers will prepare their scripture texts in advance and attend to assignments faithfully.

St. Augustine's is looking to all age groups for service at the altar: **Crucifers** – those who vest and process with the cross. Also **Acolytes** of all ages to learn the rituals, prayers and movements at our Eucharist service. They too wear appropriate liturgical garb and must be attentive, devout and very reliable.

Be assured that Fr. Robin is eager to offer training for each of these important positions.

Sat. Jan. 27th Annual Meeting

- * "STATE OF THE PARISH"
FROM PRIEST IN CHARGE
- * SR. WARDEN'S UPDATE
- * ORGANIZATION CHECKUP
- * FOUR VESTRY MEMBERS
TO BE ELECTED
- * JR. WARDEN'S UPDATE
- * COMMITTEE REPORTS

This newsletter is for members and friends of one courageous Episcopal Church in south St. Petersburg, FL. "... more* from St. Augustine's" is about recognition, candor, nixing hearsay, spiritual attitude and, yes, unashamed cheer leading. Members Judy and Tom Krug are the project's co-editors. Some 65 parishioners are essential to the effort. We think of this publication as the first draft of our congregation's recent history. Issues are available each Sunday after the service and also online at www.staugstpete.org, our web site for church-shoppers.

#71, December 10, 2006

Celebration! **Christmas Services Here Dec. 24**

At St. Augustine's it's not Countdown to Christmas Gifts this year. In marked contrast to what's happening at the malls, our Priest in Charge reminds us, we church folk are in Advent, a season of preparation and expectation. Advent season is waiting, examining, a thorough preparing for Jesus' birth.

Candles and calendars help us get ready and the liturgical color, surprisingly, is blue.

Thus our sanctuary will not be decorated for Christmas until – hear this now -- the afternoon of Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve. Then, Fr. Robin assures us, “the transformation will be swift, like Superman changing in a phone booth.”

And the mood will suddenly change from anticipating to glorious celebration. Christ is with us! The savior has come! Emmanuel!

Thus this year's Christmas schedule will have numerous surprises, with young children playing an active role in the liturgical celebration. **Plan for an Early Evening Service on Christmas Eve with Guest Musicians. There will be no services Christmas Day, Dec. 25.**

New Church Directory Published Today **Bigger, Better, Now with Birthdays, Call It "Blue"**

"You can finally toss Old Yeller," **Judy Krug** said this morning. That's the almost three year old yellow sheet that lists the Family and Friends of St. Augustine's. By now most of those old directories have been marked up, crossed out, scribbled on and dog-eared. People have come, gone, changed cell phones and added email addresses. Children have been born and some names have even been changed. "This was way overdue," Judy acknowledged.

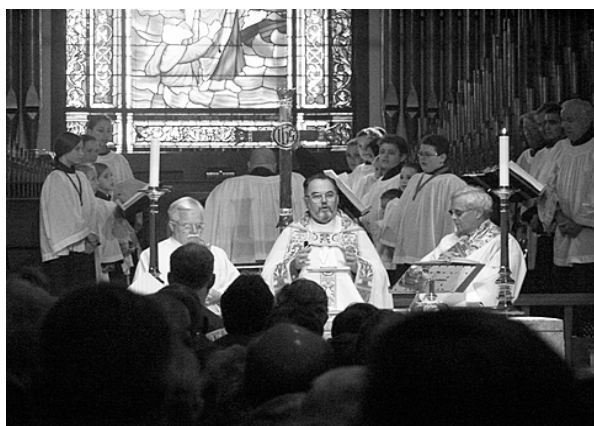
"Blue" is the first new St. Augustine's reference publication in over three years. It has been cross-checked many times and now has many more email addresses, plus listings by both first names and surnames. Birthdays (month and day only) have been added as well.

Copies of the new Blue Directory are available to all after today's service.

	Clergy	Lay		
Adler	10	11	Total Ballots Cast:	301
Dannals	X	X	Clergy ballots cast:	89
Durning	8	19	Lay ballots cast:	212
Henley	6	13	Clergy majority:	45
Lewis	7	9	Lay majority:	107
Owensby	8	27		
Smith	50	133		

Diocese of Southwest Florida

Dramatic Numbers. On the very first ballot yesterday the tally was so decisive that a recount was called. Fr. Dannals had chosen to withdraw earlier in the week.



Bishop John Lipscomb was celebrant for the opening Eucharist service which featured every element of Episcopal pomp appropriate to electing his successor. As the diocese's chief administrator he also presided at the Electing Convention itself. Selection was swift indeed.



Mixing with the flock. In-doors and out, our SWFla bishop was connecting with delegates, clergy and visitors. Prepared to go all day, the convention erupted in applause when Bishop Lipscomb said, "We have an election!" Bells rang out!



High Church indeed. Spectacular pipe organ, incense, bells, with 3 choirs, 11 acolytes, 4 vergers, 3 crucifers, 6 torchbearers, and 17 vested clergy at the altar. A nearly packed cathedral, closed circuit big screen TV for overflow crowds, long processions, even a litanist. Every inch of St. Peter's was so involved by the event that Cathedral Campus maps were part of the handout packages. Cathedral volunteers were everywhere asking, "How may I help you?"



Shirley makes it official. Our church had elected three voting delegates to the convention: **Shirley Davis**, above, **Mary Clowers** and **Tom Krug**. All the delegates were asked to sign the document affirming the election of **Fr. Dabney Smith** who will succeed our bishop.