

Breakfast for Resurrection House, a Blessed Achievement

In this Easter season few things seem more appropriate than the event occurring Thursday morning in downtown St. Petersburg. At 7:30 AM the Resurrection House's *New Beginnings Breakfast* will be held at the Coliseum. It is the 12th annual fundraiser for this Episcopally founded organization, an organization our bishop has called "one of our proudest achievements."

They Said, "No Way!" "You'll See," She Said

After a long morning's work they took a break on Good Friday to attend services at St. Matthews. They heard Fr. Whitlock's sermon and walked the stations of the cross.

Then they all went back to scrubbing and painting -- utterly defying those naysayers who insisted that it was madness to begin doing over the parish kitchen before Easter.

They all came back on Saturday and went at the second coats. That means walls, cabinets, doors, drawers. **Mary Clowers, Joyce Corn, Louise Stroude, Inez Ford and Yate Cutliff.** On Friday morning **Greg Ashford** removed all the hinges and handles (count 'em!), sorted the piles and then replaced it all Saturday evening.

Result? Appropriate to this season: transformation. A gleaming, spring-fresh, new outfit of color.

Please, St. Augustine's, thank these folks for their extraordinary effort.

"Resurrection Sunday is about reconciling the light within us with the darkness around us. Resurrection, you see, did not change the world. On the contrary, the Resurrection changed the apostles who are supposed to change the world. What is supposed to be celebrated on Easter Sunday is not only that Jesus has risen, but that we have risen by His rising to become something new and something bold and something strong."

Sister Joan Chittister

Now in its 18th year, Resurrection House provides transitional housing and self-sufficiency programs for motivated homeless families with children.

Its story will sound eerily familiar to many at St. Augustine's because its birth was so much like that of our project, *Your Place*. In 1987 Episcopal priest **Fr. Joseph Diaz** decided his church would initiate a coalition of churches to create an alternative shelter specifically for families. It would provide time, space and support services to enable homeless families to rebuild their lives.

After buying an apartment complex to serve as transitional housing, Resurrection House began operating as a nonprofit corporation in 1988. Ten years later it raised \$2 million in private funds for a new campus. Resurrection House receives no government funding and hires no professionalsolicitors.

Daniel Rodriguez, the former New York City police officer, called "America's tenor," will be the featured guest and performer at the *New Beginnings Breakfast*. There is no charge for tickets -- the hope is you will be motivated to make a donation to Resurrection House.

Humankind has just three friends on whose company we rely. First, wealth, which goes with us only while good fortune lasts.

Second, our relatives; they go only as far as the grave, and leave us there.

Our third friend, good deeds, goes with us beyond the grave.

The Talmud

Dare to Imagine This

Can you imagine a St. Augustine's blessed again by young families -- lots of them? Can you let yourself hear young children's voices sweetening our air again? It could happen here.

Try to imagine an outreach effort that makes this church blessedly proud of what we are able to do. Imagine a sense of reaching way out, for something much bigger than ourselves.

And then imagine a new income here, not lottery-large, but constant, some dollars that could empower our best ambitions.

Imagine a St. Augustine's with fiscal stability, with no more pleading.

Imagine all this with no need for a miracle, just our own conscientious resourcefulness. Imagine the satisfaction that comes from acting so decisively.

No, oil has not been discovered in our back yard. And Bill Gates has not transferred his membership here. But there are some breathtaking new ideas being mulled over around here, proposals that are so thrilling they make you absolutely giddy.

Now if you think that's merely tantalizing and not really NEWS, well, you are right. But some of our life here gets brighter every day. More to come....

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

Okay, Pentecost-on-the-Beach

In past years our Pentecost celebrations have been grand and they've been plain. But they have never been sandy. This year St. A's will celebrate Pentecost in a pavillion at Ft. DeSoto Park -- and that's just fine with our new rector, **Fr. Whitlock**.

"That first Pentecost was in an unadorned place and I'm sure our God will be pleased with our spot this year," Fr. Robin said yesterday with a grin.

Our annual Mass on the Beach, is now slated for Sunday, June 4, a new date based mostly on space availability. But **Bobby Allen**, Men's Club President, insists he's scored an even more attractive location this year.

As before, this event will be overseen by the parish men and there will be all the usual picnic foods, games and suntan oil. Fr. Robin says the beach Eucharist will still be "Pentecost-proper," but a wonderful change. He even suggested we all don red t-shirts declaring "St. Augustine's Pentecost, 2006, Enjoying the New Church."

"Now Reporting Live From Dallas, Aliya Flanagan"

It's not at all unlikely you'll hear that introduction someday soon -- about the granddaughter of **Lewis and Mary Clowers**.

Aliya has just been awarded a summer internship with Fox News in Atlanta. "She called me this afternoon with the news," her mother, **Deborah Flanagan** said. "She was so excited I know she was jumping up and down."

An opportunity like this means a head start on Aliya's future in broadcast journalism. Right now she is a junior majoring in Communications and Drama at the University of Florida in Gainesville and working as a producer/reporter at WLUF-LP, the University's student-run TV station.

Does Aliya want to be a news anchor like Katy Couric some day? "At one time that was her dream, but not anymore," explained Deborah. "While working at WLUF, she's discovered how much fun it is to chase a story and do it live on camera; so now that's her goal."

Will we see Aliya on Fox News this summer? "No," says her mother, "an intern doesn't get on-air." But showing up on your TV screen is no mere fantasy for this young woman from St. Augustine's.

New Life Outdoors As Well

They dug, they pulled and then dug some more to remove several sturdy bushes from the front of our church. Thieves in the night? No, **Louise Stroude** and **Judy Krug**, working in full daylight to transplant shrubs to the walkway going to Ford Hall.

"I've been worried that someone will step off that raised walk and fall," explains Judy. "A fence would've been an option but greenery looks so much better."

Saturday **Bobby Allen** pulled in with a trailer full of recycled mulch from the city trash site. He and **Hazel Hudson** spread it around the shrubs and the plants bordering the church entrance. "That will help our sandy soil retain water," he said. More mulch is coming next week, suggesting more landscaping projects in the works.

Here, Next Sunday, a Big Baby Shower, Men Invited Too

It's been a while since St. Augustine's had a baby, but that wait will end... ah, on or about May 5th.

Koren Allen and her husband are expecting a fifth child, and the church will be giving her a baby shower in preparation.

Louise Stroude got the idea. "We could have it right after church so everyone, even the men, can come." It's **Theresa Martin** who is organizing the party for this

Sunday, the 23rd. "We'll decorate and have it in Ford Hall, so people can eat breakfast as usual, then come

over for the big party!" she told Louise.

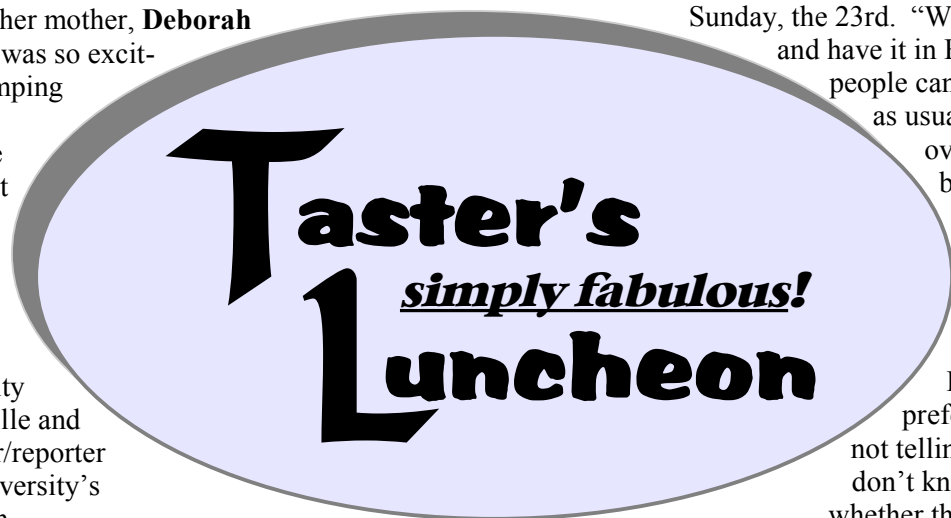
So will all those decorations be pink or blue?

Koren has a preference (she's not telling!) but they don't know for sure whether this baby will be a boy, like their son **Lamar** or a girl like

their daughters **Cynthia, Darnesha** and **Elicia**. "Healthy is what I hope for."

Here's a chance to chat with Koren and wish her and her baby well. "No silly games to embarrass the men," is a promise. This shower is about our blessings, not traditional silliness.

If you do choose to bring a gift, there are suggestions on the back of the invitations being distributed today.



Saturday, April 22, Noon - 3:00

