

# THE WORD FROM TWO SAINTS

The Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene (Episcopal)

January 2005

## OUR EPIPHANY THEME...

### *LORD, SHOW US THE DREAM*

Holy Eucharist Every Sunday at 8am & 10am

(Music & Children's Education at 10am)

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#### THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Our next occasion to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, when we will be celebrating *The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord*. If you wish to be baptized, or to have someone in your family baptized, please speak with Michael Hopkins to make the appropriate arrangements.

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#### THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

We will be celebrating the life, work and witness of *Martin Luther King, Jr.* in our celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Come and participate in our observance of this great leader for the Civil Rights movement.

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#### THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY – JANUARY 23

At 10am, we begin our *Holy Eucharist and Annual Meeting*. After we have Communion, we will set about taking care of the business for the coming year. Don't miss this important opportunity to take part in our parish's life together.

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#### THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 30<sup>th</sup> will be a busy day for us at "Two Saints". We begin at 8am with the Holy Eucharist and Men's Association Corporate Communion. At 9am is the *Parish Breakfast* served by the Men's Association.

This will also be our monthly *Healing Sunday*.

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David G. Smith, Lay Associate & Minister of Music

**A WORD FROM THE RECTOR**

**THE REV. MICHAEL W. HOPKINS**

**Cottage Meetings  
Report: December 2004**

I gathered with 52 adult members of the parish at seven different meetings over the course of four weeks in November and December 2004. The purpose of these meetings was twofold: to get to know one another better and to share visions of the future of the Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene.

At each meeting, I asked individuals to tell me the history of their involvement with Two Saints, either of its predecessor congregations and/or the Episcopal Church in general. I think for most of us, this time of storytelling was the best part of the experience, as even fellow “old-timers” learned something about one another and more about the history of the parish. Everyone got to hear the outline of my story as well, and, at five out of the seven meetings, John’s. For me this was holy time, as I heard the story of God’s doings with individual lives woven into a wonderful tapestry of grace and mercy.

In terms of our visions of the future, two strong themes emerged:

**Growth** – whether in terms of numbers of members or programs or in spirituality in general – was the strongest and most consistent theme, which, of course, matches the Parish Profile and everything I heard from both the Search Committee and Vestry prior to my accepting the call here. The most frequently mentioned subgroup was families with children and young people, and I shared our initial plans to re-start Sunday School (and brought Jesus himself along for moral support!). Growth that continues our diversity and informal, friendly atmosphere was an important priority as well.

As a sub-theme of this area, one thing frequently discussed was various aspects of “opening ourselves up,” and ending our time as “the best kept church secret in Rochester.” Another was adult formation and leadership development, including spreading the wealth of leadership.

**Ministry** was the other strong theme, maintaining and expanding the parishes’ commitment to ministry in the city, including rediscovering and engaging our “neighborhood” and its needs. In this we must look for partnerships with other churches, organizations, and our

diocese. There was a strong sense that we need to be leaders of urban ministry in our diocese, a catalyst for change in our community, as one person put it.

These meetings were a great experience for me, and one of the things I learned was the need for people at Two Saints at least occasionally to connect with one another in similar ways. I hope that any continued review and visioning will include meetings such as these. My many thanks to the hosts: Bob & Betty Seidel, Donna & Michael Davis, Madeline Gamble, Arlene Titus, Lynn George, Carolyn Lumbard, and Yvonne & Chris Cleveland.

P.S. A blast from the past! We were continuing an old tradition (and most of us probably didn’t even know it). I recently ran across the following paragraph in the 1935 history of the Diocese of Western New York.

*St. Luke’s is to be credited with a plan of parish organization, in 1832, which long afterwards was greatly recommended in the Diocese and General Church: namely the dividing the parish into sections containing the families most contiguous to each other, to facilitate two kinds of parochial intercourse: family visits from house to house, and pastoral visits when the Rector met a group at one of the homes. It was his practice to announce on Sunday the section he would visit during the week.*

**THE REV. MICHAEL W. HOPKINS  
& Mr. John Clinton Bradley**

*invite you to an*

**OPEN HOUSE**

*at their new Rochester home:*

**56 Vassar Street**

**Saturday, January 8  
2-6 pm**

*Parking available in  
the Wilson Farms lot  
at the intersection of  
Park Ave. & Vassar St.*

**VIA MEDIA COMING TO TWO SAINTS**

Via Media brings people together with a brand new program that teaches about the Episcopal Church and what it means



to be an Episcopalian in today's world. Hear from well-known and respected theologians and religious scholars, as well as ordinary clergy and lay people, as they break down the door of ancient tradition and uncover the truth and reality of the Episcopal Church today and what it means to be a part of a progressive movement in religion.

Don't be left in the dark about your faith. Via Media's mission is to educate and inspire those who are currently members of the Episcopal Church and those interested in learning more. We encourage members to bring along friends and family members who have unanswered questions about our faith.

Via Media is a new 8-week education series, there will be videos featuring prominent figures (including the rector) in the Anglican church talking about various issues, in addition there will be time for open discussion and of course, FOOD.

Tuesdays, January 25—March 15, 6:30 pm—8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Childcare will be provided if there is an indicated need. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or call the parish office (546-7730).

The Anglican faith is embedded in ancient tradition; Via Media wipes away the cob webs and reveals a fresh, contemporary version of the Anglican tradition. Don't be passive about your faith, learn about it, understand how it evolved, most of all learn to love it and be proud of what it stands for.

**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
Saturday, January 15**

Send articles to Parish Office – saints2@frontiernet.net

**NEWSLEETER VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED  
1pm Tuesday January 25**

Call the Parish Office at 546-7730 to volunteer  
It only takes about an hour and a half to put it together,

***LORD, SHOW US THE DREAM***

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 10:00AM**

- ❖ 8am *Holy Eucharist.*
- ❖ 10am *Holy Eucharist and Annual Meeting.*  
After we have Communion, we will set about taking care of the business for the coming year.

In addition to electing officers for ourselves, we as a parish will have opportunity to look at the budget for the coming year, and to look forward to fulfilling our mission as a parish. Each annual meeting is very important, but this year's meeting is especially important and exciting, as it is our first Annual Meeting with our new rector, Michael Hopkins. Come one and all!

**ANNUAL REPORTS**

If your committee or organization wishes to have a report published in the annual report booklet for the Annual Meeting, it needs to be submitted to the Parish Office according to these deadlines:

- **Sunday, January 9** (hand-printed or typed reports)  
*Or...*
- **Sunday, January 16** (reports by email or on disk)

Reports may be typed or printed (no cursive, please) on 8 ½" x 11" paper, submitted by email (as text or Word attachment) or on a diskette in Microsoft Word format (PC, not Apple). Thank you.

***GOOD KING WENCESLAS***

**— — THE OPERA — —**

The Choir & Soloists of St. Luke's Church (Fairport), under the direction of Thomas Elston will present this short (45 minute) opera at 8pm on Saturday, January 29. This light-hearted opera combines the stories of the familiar carol, the king for whom it is named, a wayward angel and the Magi of Epiphany. Following the performance will be a dessert reception. The opera is being presented as a fund-raiser for *Safe Journey* – a shelter for women fleeing domestic abuse. Keep an eye to your church bulletins for details and ticket information (or call the Parish Office after January 10). Let's go have a night at the opera!!

***The Word from Two Saints*** is a publication of:

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***We are Two Saints with Room for Many More!***

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**THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD** is when the Church celebrates Christ's revelation to the nations, as represented by Magi who came to pay homage from distant lands.

**Our celebration will begin with Holy Eucharist on Sunday, January 2**

- ❖ At 8am, we will mark the occasion with *Epiphany Lessons & Canticles*
- ❖ At 10am, we will celebrate with *Epiphany Lessons & Carols* and we will open up the Christmas gifts that have been given to the Parish
- ❖ Then at 11:30am, we will all join together for our annual **International Potluck Dinner**. Please bring a dish to pass that features the foods of another country or culture, to celebrate the light of Christ being spread throughout the world

**Hitch Up Your Camel, and Come Celebrate Epiphany!**