

THE WORD FROM TWO SAINTS

The Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene
A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

March 2007
A House of Prayer for All People

You Shall be known as ... The Restorer of Streets to Live In

From the Rector

Lent 2007

*Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in. Isaiah 58:12*



We usually think about Lent as a time for the intensifying of personal spirituality, and that is by no means a bad thing.

But the resurrection (which Lent is preparing us to celebrate) is not solely about personal spirituality. The

resurrection is a communal vision: not only individuals raised up from their death, but the holy city restored, a new creation inaugurated, and a community gathered around the throne of God. It happens that during Eastertide we will hear all these images this year from the Book of Revelation.

The above passage from Isaiah has recently caught my attention again. The words “repairer of the breach” were familiar to me (didn’t Bill Clinton use that image?), but for some reason the other image in the verse had not stuck with me: the restorer of streets to live in. Now there’s an image that speaks to the situation in our city (and cities everywhere) without any need for explanation at all.

We don’t read that passage from Isaiah during Lent, but I am making it our theme, and our six weeks of preparation a reflection on what “in our streets” needs restoring, confessing our own complicity in that state of affairs, and being challenged with how we might go about participating in that restoration. I think we already know some of the latter, because we have been feeling a call in several areas (see the seven priorities for this year from last month’s newsletter).

Before we get too far into implementing those priorities, we need, I believe, in this Lenten season, to make sure we are clear about the realities with which we are dealing on our streets and do an ancient thing the people of God have done

when faced with that kind of desolation and their own complicity in it: lament that state of affairs.

“Lament” is not something we are used to hearing about in the Church. To lament is, in one sense, to state the obvious, the real state of affairs, and long for their transformation. The psalms are full of lament, although in reading them on Sunday we prefer the joyful and confident psalms. We are used to hearing (especially during Lent) about our need for repentance. But before one can repent, one must be honest. We Christians often miss that step.

During Lent it is customary to move the confession to the beginning of the Service to emphasize it and let it set the tone. We will be doing that as usual, but it will have a slightly different flavor, and it will be prefaced by some lamenting of the world as it is. Our confession will then not only be of our personal sins, but also of the ways we are complicit in how far our social life falls short of the dream of God.

I expect this theme of “You shall be known as...the restorer of streets to live in” will carry on through Easter as we continue to sharpen our focus on those priorities and begin to “make them so,” and it will also be the theme for a very special celebration in Eastertide that is beginning to take shape.

This year is the 190th anniversary of the founding of St. Luke’s and, therefore, of the ministry of the Episcopal Church in Rochester. Rather than celebrate this event as ourselves for ourselves, I have offered this anniversary to the Diocese as part of our re-energizing of urban mission and ministry. I hope that on Saturday, May 5, our bishop and members of our congregations throughout the city and Monroe County will join us for a great celebration and recommitment to city ministry. More on this event later as details unfold, but mark the date now!

As I write this I am somewhat distracted by issues in the larger church of which most of you will be aware. As important as they are, and as much as communities like ours must witness to the truth of the inclusive Gospel of Jesus, I am determined not to let those larger issues keep us from doing what we know we are called to do here and now. Let us all pray for the Church, yes, for its unity, but mostly that it will be known as “the repairer of streets to live in.”

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SUNDAY BIBLE WORKBENCH

Adult Bible study meets every Sunday (except All Church Sundays) at 9:05 am in the chapel. We are using the Bible Workbench curriculum. No preparation is required, but you are welcome to read the lesson in advance if you wish. The schedule for March is:

March 4 – Luke 13:22-35

March 11 – Exodus 3:1-15

March 18 – Parish Breakfast/All Church Sunday

March 25 – Isaiah 43:16-21

April 1 – Luke 22:14—23:56

DIOCESAN PRISON MINISTRY

The next Diocesan Prison Ministry Group meeting will be held at St. Michael's Church, 23 Main Street in Geneseo, Saturday, March 3rd 10:00am to Noon. Anyone with interest in prison ministry, mentoring, or is just curious is invited. For more information, contact Britt Hopkin at (585) 442-2462 or bgh@aol.com, or just come to the meeting.

LENTEN READING GROUP CONTINUES

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3: Tuesdays from 5:30-7 pm

Our study is guided by the book *Simpler Living, Compassionate Life*, a book of essays by modern spiritual leaders. We are looking at our own stories and our relationship with money. The five remaining sessions include Eco-justice and Money, The Place of Money in Modern Life, The Great Economy, Lifestyles & Global Economics, and the Broader Implications of our Everyday Food Choices. Our national church made a commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) at the General Convention in June. This is an opportunity to begin a personal conversation about some of the economic choices integral to the achievement of these goals.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING HERE

On Saturday, March 10, Canon Steve Lane will facilitate a Safe Church Training in the parish hall from 9am to 1pm. This training is for anyone who is (or might be) working with programs, or making

policy for, children & youth. Parents are also encouraged to attend. It's a good opportunity for parents to become familiar with the ways we try to make our church a safe place for your children. It's also a requirement for those who would like to chaperone any diocesan or parish children or youth event. Parental support is crucial to the success of our youth programs! We need you!! A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church.

PUBLIC POLICY SPRING FORUMS 2007

By Marilyn Wienk

March 11—Health Care: This forum will cover the problem of inadequate health care facing so many of us, as well as discuss ways to improve our health care system. **Presenters** include **Wade Norwood** of the Finger Lakes Health System Agency, who will speak about the problems of health care locally, and **Frank Williams, M.D. and James Halkett, Ph.D.**, who will share the results of the health care survey they conducted here last November concerning what people would like to have in a health care system. Discussion will focus on possible solutions, including the single-payer health coverage proposal.

April 22—Domestic Violence: A member of SAFER (Survivors Advocating for Effective Reform), **Carly Wise** will give us statistics and tell us stories about violence against women in Rochester and Monroe County. Domestic violence affects women in every race and social class, and as a result impacts the whole community—It is not just a women's issue. Carly will indicate what we can do to effect public policy changes to improve the lives of victims of domestic violence, which includes the children of abused women.

May 13—Global Warming: Local renewable energy professional, **Scott Cicora**, was recently trained in Nashville, Tennessee along with 1,000 other volunteers by Al Gore to deliver presentations on global warming based on his movie and book, *An Inconvenient Truth*. On this Rogation Sunday after we bless the Genesee River, Scott will present a slide show, "The Climate Project," in the parish hall. He will provide information about the perils of global warming and suggest some concrete ways we can confront this climate crisis.

**ACCLAIMED STORYTELLER FROM
JERUSALEM TO BE SPONSORED BY
THREE FAITHS**

**Saturday March 10: 7:15 PM at Temple B'rith
Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave. Brighton**

Rochester congregations of three faiths – Islamic, Jewish, and Christian – will jointly sponsor for the public on March 10 the acclaimed story teller, Noa Baum, who will present “A Land Twice Promised,” her insightful personal story about several Israeli and Palestinian women.

Ms. Baum, who was born and raised in Jerusalem, began a heartfelt dialogue with a Palestinian woman while living in the United States. “She weaves together their memories and their mothers’ stories, creating a moving testimony illuminating the complex and contradictory history and emotions that surround Jerusalem for Israelis and Palestinians alike,” according to the sponsors.

She will present her stories at 7:15 p.m., Saturday, March 10, at Temple B'rith Kodesh at 2131 Elmwood Avenue. There will be no admission charge. The three sponsoring organizations are the Islamic Center of Rochester, Temple B'rith Kodesh, and Third Presbyterian Church.

“I believe that once you really get to know someone and hear their story – they can no longer be your enemy. This performance stems from my experience as an Israeli having a dialogue and friendship with a Palestinian woman,” said Ms. Baum.

“It was not an easy process. Building trust took many years. We spent hours arguing and disagreeing, struggling with the voices we grew up with, the narratives we believed were The Truth. We learned that a little compassion could go a long way. My hope is that the evening will encourage people to seek out ‘the other’ and listen to their story.”

A LETTER FROM DAVID SMITH

Dear Family, Friends & Companions on the Way...

As most of you know, I took my General Ordination Exams (GOE) during the first week of January. Last night when I got home my results were in my mailbox. I'm pleased to say that I passed all 7 areas of the exam! Thank you all for your support, kind

words, prayers, and deeds of mercy as I prepared for them, took them, and awaited the results.

My next step in the ordination discernment process is to prepare for my Candidacy interview on March 13 at 3pm. I will keep you posted as things continue to develop and unfold. Thanks, again, for being there for me.

In the meantime, I continue to enjoy my work as Parish Intern at St Luke's Church in Fairport. I'm only taking one course this semester (Intro to Christian Ethics), and am also working about 1/2-time at the Divinity School Bookstore & Library. Life is good!

All the best, with love...

David

**MAKE WAY FOR
A NEW PICTURE DIRECTORY**

On Tuesday, March 13 & Monday, March 19 from 3:00pm to 9:30pm photographers from Olan Mills Studios will be here taking portraits for a new parish picture directory. Please sign up to have your portrait taken. We want as many of us as possible to be represented in the directory. You may sign up on the posters in the rear of the church and in the parish hall, or on-line at www.signup.olanmills.com through March 4. All you need to know to sign up on-line is the parish phone number. Every family that sits for a portrait receives a free 8x10 print. Additional pictures may be purchased at 20% off the original price. Seniors receive an additional 10% discount on prints.

SPRING YOUTH EVENTS

- March 16th** *Rock the Church* (St. Matthias, East Rochester): Food & fun on the third Friday of every month. Permission forms required.
- April 5th & 6th** *Maundy Thursday -Good Friday Overnight* (Zion Church, Palmyra)
- May 25th** *Hip Hop E*Mass* (St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene, Rochester)
- June 9th** *Acolyte Festival* (St. Michael's, Geneseo)

**COMING IN EASTER:
DISCOVERING “THE HEART OF
CHRISTIANITY” IN THE MODERN
WORLD**

How do I live faithfully in this age of technology and globalization? How do I relate the Bible to modern living? Why do I feel ill at ease sometimes when I try to use church language in my day-to-day challenges? Can I really take all that the Bible says as true? If these are some of the questions that you ponder then Marcus Borg’s book *The Heart of Christianity* is the book for you. We will be reading and talking about this book at Two Saints beginning on April 10. The conversation will be lead by Peter Peters, our associate priest.

VIA MEDIA AT TWO SAINTS AGAIN

Twice a year we offer *Via Media*, a basic introduction to the Christian faith in our Episcopal/Anglican tradition. The course uses video conversations between Episcopalians (including our rector), which then turn into our conversation about the same topic. Topics covered are:



- God & Creation: The Abundance of God’s Goodness
- God in Jesus: An Incarnational Faith
- God the Holy Spirit: The Breath of New Life
- The Word of God for the People of God
- Sin: Roadblocks to Abundant Life
- Thy Kingdom Come: The Promise of Christian Hope

The Class meets for six weeks on Monday evenings beginning at 6 pm with a light supper, concluding at 8 pm. We started on Monday, February 25, continuing through Monday, April 2. The class is still open especially to newcomers to the parish, but anyone who wants to renew their engagement with our tradition is welcome. Sign up in the back of the Church or by calling the parish office.

VESTRY NEWS

At its February meeting, the Two Saints Vestry accomplished a significant number of things:

- Reorganized for the new year, re-electing Sharon Nelson as Clerk, Arlene Titus as Treasurer, Betty Seidel as Assistant Treasurer, and Pat Knapp as Financial Secretary.
- Approved the new Mission Statement of the Parish, which will be found elsewhere in this newsletter. The Mission Statement describes who we believe we are as a community of faith. It is our fundamental identity statement. Our Vision Statement remains our guide into what we believe is God’s future for us.
- Approved a contract with CMA Architecture for the design phase of our Accessibility Project, which will include installation of a lift from the church to the parish hall level, new parish hall accessible toilets, and kitchen renovation. When we have a preliminary design we will share it with the congregation for feedback. We have also begun the consultation process with a capital campaign consultant.
- Reviewed and affirmed the rector’s seven priorities as presented at the Annual Meeting. The Vestry received its first of what will be monthly reports on those priorities, which will also be posted in the parish hall on the new Vestry bulletin board (look there for recent meeting minutes and financial reports as well).

ERD LENT OFFERING

During Lent the congregation is encouraged to use Episcopal Relief & Development mite boxes (available in the back of the Church) to make a special offering, to be collected on Palm Sunday. The offering will be 50% used for continued Katrina relief and 50% for relief in the Darfur region of the Sudan, two areas in which ERD has been at work.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT TWO SAINTS

The following is the schedule for Holy Week and Easter Services at Two Saints:

Palm Sunday (April 1)

- 8 am Eucharist with Blessing of Palms & Passion Gospel read in parts
- 10 am Sung Eucharist with Blessing of Palms, Procession, and Enacted Passion Reading

Mon., Tues., Wed. in Holy Week

- 12:05 pm & 6 pm Eucharist

Maundy Thursday

- 12:05 pm Eucharist
- 6 pm Agapé Meal
Sung Eucharist with Footwashing
Stripping of the Altar
Watch in the Garden until Midnight

Good Friday

- 12:05 pm & 6 pm Good Friday Liturgy:
St. John's Passion
Solemn Prayers for the World
Veneration of the Cross
Communion of the pre-Sanctified

Holy Saturday

- 9:30 am Liturgy of the Word
- 7 pm The Great Vigil of Easter at Christ Church, Rochester with Bishop McKelvey

Easter Day

- 8 am Eucharist with Hymns
- 9 am Parish Breakfast
- 10 am Sung Eucharist
- 11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

Holy Baptism is available on any Sunday of the Easter Season (April 8 through May 27. Please speak to the rector immediately if you have a candidate for baptism.



GOINGS ON



African Drummers from Apollo Middle School in Greece were part of our Absalom Jones Day celebration thanks to Jessica Kane.



Above: On the Sunday of the Bishop's Visit in January, Moore sisters Jackie Hopkins and Gert Manns share a moment with "Moore Wannabe" Ebo Ocran. Below: Dr. Peter Mott spoke on Absalom Jones Day about his new book Cancer in the Body Politic.



The Word from Two Saints is a publication of:

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MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 4—Lent 2

8 am Eucharist

9:45 am Sunday School

10 am Sung Eucharist

11:30 am Special Forum on Cooperative Ministry Proposal

Sunday, March 11—Lent 3

8 am Eucharist

9:45 am Sunday School

10 am Sung Eucharist with Guest Preacher Wade Norwood

11:30 am Public Policy Forum: Healthcare

Sunday, March 18—Lent 4

Mothering Sunday: All Church Sunday

8 am Eucharist

9 am Parish Breakfast

10 am Sung Eucharist

11:30 am Rector's Forum: Report from Episcopal Urban Caucus

Monday, March 19—St. Joseph's Day

12:05 pm Eucharist

Sunday, March 25—Lent 5

8 am Eucharist

9:45 am Sunday School

10 am Sung Eucharist

Monday, March 26—The Annunciation

12:05 pm Eucharist

*Holy Eucharist every Tuesday & Thursday
at 12:05 pm in the Chapel*

During Lent: Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays & Fridays

at 12:05 pm in the Church