

THE WORD FROM TWO SAINTS

The Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

June 2007

A House of Prayer for All People

MALCOLM MERRIWEATHER NEXT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

From the Rector

I am please to announce that I have called Mr. Malcolm Merriweather to be our next Director of Music. Malcolm begins a master's program in choral conducting this fall at the Eastman School of Music, having just graduated from Syracuse University.

While at Syracuse, Malcolm did his internship at the Syracuse Children's Choir, where he co-



conducted the Senior Choir. On Sunday mornings he was a section leader at St. Paul's Cathedral and in the afternoons he was organist for the Center for Cultural and

Spiritual Unity. He was also Music Director for "Orange Appeal," an all-male a cappella group at Syracuse, and was music director for *Anything Goes*. Before attending college, he sang in the Choir of Men and Boys at St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo. He is a native of Grand Island.

Malcolm will be present for members of the parish to meet him at the 10 am Service on June 10. he will begin Sunday duties the following Sunday. Please welcome Malcolm to the Two Saints' Family!

ANTI-RACISM DIALOGUE GROUPS TO MEET THIS SUMMER

Racism is a thorn in the side of the wounded society for which we aspire to reconciliation, unity, and

peace. And Two Saints, with all of us invited to participate, is now tugging at that thorn.

The Two Saints Anti-Racism Team has a plan. Our congregation will be the demonstration site of anti-racism dialogue that we pray will energize us and produce a resolution for the Diocesan Convention this fall. Our aim? To stimulate the Diocese of Rochester to act positively on Episcopal Church directives, dating back to the early 1990s, calling for all Episcopalians to engage in anti-racism training and explore our church's historical complicity in the sin of racism.

Under the Rector's leadership, we, who are about ten, have prepared the way. In early March, many of us attended an inspiring two-day anti-racism training at Grace Church in Syracuse. Led in part by the Rev. Jayne Oasin, the Episcopal Church Social Justice Officer, the sessions were intensive and richly satisfying. They opened refreshing windows of insight and gave us access to a trove of illuminating material.

Our project is now in an intensive phase. At a June 10 anti-racism kick-off Sunday, we will secure contact information from those wishing to take part in structured, four-part small group discussions between mid-June and the end of September. Two team members will facilitate each group, and we expect both to have a good time and to explore serious stuff.

Our curriculum, so-called, builds on great materials from the Syracuse training; readings will be passed out on June 10. The sessions are devoted to group building, exploring power and privilege, social and institutional racism, and what we can do.

In mid-October we will hold a whole parish plenary. We will talk about what we have accomplished, the challenges we face, and the Two Saints' resolution for Diocesan Convention.

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The Rev. Mary Ann Brody, Assistant Rector

The Rev. Peter W. Peters, Priest Associate

**TIME TO REGISTER FOR CREATION
CAMP THIS SUMMER!**

Creation Camp runs from Sunday, June 24 until Friday, June 29, 2007 at Camp Koinonia in Middlesex, NY. Young people ages 11 (having finished fifth grade) through 18 are welcome to apply. Living in community and working in their chosen field, young people have the opportunity to explore their talents, increase their skills and have a very good time! A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required with your registration. Total cost is \$250 for the week. Scholarship assistance is available. Consider exploring this excellent summer opportunity. A list of "majors" and the registration form is posted on the diocesan bulletin board. Questions? Speak to Mary Ann Brody, or call St. Mark's, Penn Yan (315) 536-3955.

RIGHT ON SCHOOL SPONSOR-A-CHILD

The time has arrived for you to think about the upcoming summer of Right On School. Last year we were only able to receive 153 children into our program because of financial constraints. Your generosity helped us to have, once again, another successful program. We would like to enroll 200 children during 2007. Once again, we are asking your assistance in reaching that goal.

Sponsor forms are available in the back of the Church, or on-line on the website, or by calling the Office. There are many opportunities for you to contribute, not only through your monetary donation, but through your time as well. Soon there will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for

you to see where your time is needed. Any time or treasure you can give would be greatly appreciated. This is an important ministry - both to our church and to our community.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please consider donating Altar flowers. There are openings the next few weeks. Envelopes and information are available at the back of the church (on the accordion board). Alternatively, you may call the Office (546-7730) and find out available dates and register and reserve one. Suggested donation for a week's worth of flowers is \$40. Folks are also encouraged during the summer months to provide their own garden's flowers!

PERSECUTED GAY NIGERIAN TO SPEAK HERE



Davis speaking to reporters in Tanzania at the recent meeting of the Anglican Communion's provincial primates.

Davis Mac-Iyalla will be speaking at Two Saints on June 22nd, 7 pm. Mac-Iyalla is the Director of Changing Attitude Nigeria, a witness of gay and lesbian Anglicans in Nigeria.

Mac-Iyalla made headlines in 2005—including the New York Times and the Times of London—for organizing the first support group for gay and lesbian Anglicans in Nigeria. He has been a target of Archbishop Peter Akinola's wrath ever since. Akinola is a leading proponent of a draconian bill in the Nigerian Parliament that would provide five years imprisonment to anyone who "goes through the ceremony of marriage with a person of the same sex," helps or supports a same sex marriage, or "is involved in the registration of gay clubs, societies and organizations, sustenance, procession or meetings, publicity and public show of same sex

amorous relationship directly or indirectly in public and in private."

Since founding the organization in 2005, Mac-Iyalla has been repeatedly denounced by the Anglican Church of Nigeria and has received several death threats. Mac-Iyalla was forced to flee Nigeria and now lives in exile elsewhere in Africa. Nevertheless, Mac-Iyalla traveled to a meeting of Anglican archbishops in Tanzania in February, walked up to Akinola, and offered his hand.

Mac-Iyalla is traveling across the United States this summer to tell his story. Mac-Iyalla's local visit is co-sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester's Committee for Gay & Lesbian Ministry [www.edr-cglm.info] and the Leadings Institute for Spiritual Formation & Leadership Development [www.leadingsrochester.org].

Donations to help underwrite this event are welcome. Kindly make your check payable to the church and put "Davis Mac-Iyalla Event" in the memo field. An offering will be collected during the speaking engagement.

For more information, contact John Clinton Bradley at 585-242-7687 or johnclint@gmail.com.

WHAT GIFTS HAVE YE?

You may have noticed that we've been talking a lot about gifts lately. For four weeks during Eastertide, we were handing out roots, leaves, flowers and fruits. We've asked people to identify what feeds their faith, what gifts they possess, places where they do ministry and what results from the use of their gifts. We hung all these on a tree in the back of the church. If you haven't noticed, our tree is filled with many leaves, which means we have an abundance of gifts to offer one another and the world.

On Saturday, May 12th, nine of us got together for a Gifts Discernment workshop. We did four activities together to help us reflect on the gifts God has given us. One of those activities also gave us an opportunity to hear what gifts *others* saw in us. An important thing we learned was that "gifts" are not only talents and skills, but also include our temperament, our passions and our desires.

Through Bible study it became clear to us that everyone is gifted, and the smallest gift is often the most vital one. If you missed this opportunity to reflect on your own gifts, look for a second workshop coming in the fall. Many thanks to Pamela Keyes and John Clinton Bradley for their help planning and facilitating our day.

Our vision statement has called us to take a good look at ourselves to discover the gifts we have for ministry. These two events are the beginning of that process. As we go along we will be creating a "database" of gifts that our members would be willing to use in our work as a congregation. This list would be made available to ministry teams within the parish. There will be more opportunities to discover God's generosity expressed within you. In the meantime, continue to use your gifts to further God's work in our life together, in the community and in the world.

CREATING A COMMUNITY OF PASTORS

Some of you may remember completing a survey at the Ministry Fair in the fall that asked about help you might be willing to give to someone in the parish who was sick or in need. We have tallied the results, and it's clear that we have much to offer one another! This information will be shared with our clergy so that as needs arise, we will know who to call for help with such things as yard work, getting a ride to church, taking a meal to someone's home, or taking someone shopping. If you know of anyone in the congregation who might need assistance, especially during an illness or a difficult time, speak with one of our clergy or call the parish office (546-7730) to see if there might be a way for us to help. This is the first step in helping us become a community that pastors one another.

AUTOMATIC DEBITING NOW AVAILABLE

It is now possible for givers to the Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene to authorize the parish to direct debit your checking account. This can be done on a one time or regular basis. Forms to authorize this method of contribution are available in the back of the church or by calling the Office. We must have a voided check along with the form.

If you have any questions call Pat Knapp, Financial Secretary, on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons.

COVENANT PROCESS CONTINUING

The process toward a Covenant for Cooperative Ministry with St. Stephen's continues to move forward. It is anticipated that sometime during June the two vestries will vote on participation in the covenant, and we will begin operating under this new agreement on July 1. It is hoped that we will celebrate this new ministry together in the early fall.

VESTRY APPROVES COMEGYS FUND

The creation of the Rev. Richard W. Comegys, Jr. Fund for Urban Ministry was announced at the May 5th celebration of 190 years of Episcopal Ministry in Rochester. The Vestry officially approved the details of the fund at its May meeting. As part of this authorization, the Vestry designated an existing small fund that the parish holds in the Diocesan Combined Endowment Fund as "the Comegys Fund."

The purpose of this fund, as approved, is to support a yearly gathering of urban ministers, lay and ordained, in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester for their refreshment and renewal. The gathering will include a presentation by a contemporary creative thinker in urban ministry, and an opportunity for those engaged in ministry to exchange ideas and coordinate efforts.

The Comegys Fund will be overseen by the Two Saints Vestry, but an advisory team with representatives from the Rochester and Monroe District parishes and the Bishop of Rochester will be put together to plan the yearly event. The first event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2008.



ORDINATION OF DEACONS SATURDAY, JUNE 30

Two Saints will host the Ordination of Deacons for the Diocese of Rochester on Saturday, May 30, 2008, at 11 am. Among those being ordained will be our own David Smith, and Bryan Bedell, who was our seminarian for the 2006-2007 school year.

As many as five candidates will be ordained. Each of these will be what is known as a “transitional deacon,” meaning that they are expected to be ordained a priest in the future (no sooner than six months after their ordination as a deacon).

Please mark your calendar to join in the voices who will answer the Bishop’s question at the beginning of the liturgy, “Is it your will that David/Bryan be ordained a deacon?”



Two Saints’ acolytes Maya Davis, Thomas Gourdine, Hudson Carter, and Sean Velazquez are ready to go!

SCENES FROM 190TH CELEBRATION

The parish hosted a diocesan celebration of 190 years of Episcopal ministry in the Diocese of Rochester on May 5. The following pictures are thanks to Canon Carolyn Lumbard.



Herman Gourdine at the grill, leading the Men’s Association in their providing us with great food!



Bishop McKelvey prepares to bless the city at the end of the Service.



Bishop McKelvey & Becky Comegys announce the establishment of the Comegys Fund.



Mother Nancy Stevens joins Madeline Gamble, Geneva Robinson, Violet Smith, and Irene Marrero in a little serenade

The Word from Two Saints is a publication of:

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JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 3—Trinity Sunday

8 am Eucharist
9:05 am Adult Bible Study
9:45 am Sunday School
10 am Sung Eucharist

Sunday, June 10—Corpus Christi All Church Sunday

8 am Eucharist
9:05 am Adult Bible Study
9:30 am Sunday School Students Rehearsal
10 am Sung Eucharist:
 End of Sunday School Celebration
 Graduation Sunday
 Kick-off of Anti-racism Summer Dialogue Groups

Monday, June 11—St. Barnabas' Day

12:05 pm Eucharist (Chapel)



Sunday, June 17—3rd Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Eucharist
10 am Sung Eucharist

Sunday, June 24—4th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Eucharist
10 am Sung Eucharist

Monday, June 25—The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

12:05 pm Eucharist (Chapel)

Friday, June 29—St. Peter & St. Paul

12:05 pm Eucharist (Chapel)

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