

THE WORD FROM TWO SAINTS

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

January 2009
A House of Prayer for All People

From the Rector:

Dear Saints,

January is an extraordinary month filled with great celebrations and times of reflection, made all the more special this year with the Inauguration of Barack Obama on Tuesday, January 20. See the box in the next column for a summation of the celebrations.

The whole month (and on into February until Lent begins on February 25th) is governed by the Feast of the Epiphany, the other name for which is “The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.” During Epiphany we celebrate the ways in which God is a light in our world—definitively for us through our Lord Jesus—and how that light stretches out to include all people. In the words of a relatively new hymn we have sung before, Epiphany is the celebration of God that “shapes a circle ever wider and a people ever free.”

Such was the vision of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whom we will remember on January 18th. Certainly a significant piece of this vision is coming to fruition in the inauguration of Barack Obama on January 20th. Then the following Sunday, the 25th, at our Annual Meeting we will celebrate our own ever widening circle.

We will also be challenged in all these celebrations to participate in that light, asking ourselves the question, How are we (am I) a light to the world? Rest assured each of us is called to be that light and given grace by God to do it. May this grace abound among us!

Lift up your hearts!

Michael

The Sundays of January 8 am & 10 am

Sunday, January 4
Celebrating the Epiphany
Blessing the Waters & Chalk to Mark our Homes
with the traditional Epiphany Blessing
With Special Potluck Lunch & Epiphany Games at
St. Stephen's at 11:30 am

Sunday, January 11
Celebrating the Baptism of Jesus
With Holy Baptism at 10 am

Sunday, January 18
Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Parish Breakfast at 9 am
Storytelling after the 10 am
How do you think we got here?

Sunday, January 25
Celebrating our Parish Family
Annual Meeting Sunday
Voting Open 8 am—11:45 pm
Meeting at 11:30
am



*Where is the newborn King of the Jews?
We observed his star at his rising*

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The Rev. John T. Burr, Parish Deacon

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The Rev. Mary Ann Brody, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Peter W. Peters, Priest Associate

Celebrating the Epiphany

January 4 & 6

“The Epiphany” comes at the end of the 12 days of Christmas and celebrates the coming of the three wise men (magi) to visit the Christ child. As tradition goes, this feast is actually older than Christmas itself, and is still the greater of the two in the Orthodox world (so it is sometimes called “Orthodox Christmas”).

On the feast itself, January 6, we will celebrate with our usual 12:05 pm Tuesday Eucharist.

We will also, this year, celebrate the Epiphany the Sunday before the 6th, January 4. During the Service we will do the traditional Orthodox “blessing of the waters” and also bless chalk. Both water and chalk will be available to take home for each household to do a traditional Epiphany House Blessing, marking your entrance with the chalk:

20+C+M+B+09.

The “CMB” stands either for the traditional names of the three wise men (Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar) or the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicite*, “Christ, bless this house.”



Also on January 4 we will have a pot luck party after the 10 am Service at St. Stephen’s (about 11:30 am) during which we will play several Epiphany games. Anyone who has done these in years past will tell you they are a hoot! Come join in the fun as we ring out Christmas (and ring in the New Year)!



Communal Inauguration Event

Come watch the inauguration of our new president together in our parish hall! We will begin with a

pot luck lunch at 11 am on Tuesday, January 20. We will watch the Inauguration and then celebrate a simple Eucharist together (the regular 12:05 pm Service that day will be delayed until then).

30 Hour Famine

30 Hour Famine is an international youth movement to fight hunger. It helps bring groups closer together and to God, feed hungry children, and change our world forever. Students fast for thirty hours and raise funds to help feed and care for children around the world. Only \$30 a month, just \$1 a day, will help feed and care for a child in the developing world. By sacrificing and serving others, they are learning to think outside themselves and see the world as Christ sees it.

It’s not just a fast either! During the time the group spends together they learn together about conditions around the world, play games and participate in activities that help them “feel” what it’s like to be hungry. Youth also have the opportunity to engage in service together in a project that they help to plan.

If this sounds like the kind of thing that might excite your child’s imagination, sign up with Michael and Annie Laver at 455-1918 or 469-4089. We’re planning our fast for Lent.

Wednesday Bible Study

Just a reminder that our regular Bible study on Wednesday evenings will take a break during the weeks of Christmas and New Year’s Day. Bible study will resume on Wednesday, January 7 at 6pm. If you haven’t come before consider joining this committed group seeking to deepen their understanding and appreciation of scripture. If you’re already coming, consider inviting a friend to come along. No experience necessary!

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, January 18

We celebrate the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, January 18 at Two Saints. One of our readings for the day will be from his works, and the prayers of the people will be a version inspired by the hymn “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” After both Services we will have a community reflection on: “From Martin to Barack: How did we get here?”



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Peace Vigils

By Marilyn Wienk

The monthly peace vigils to end the war in Iraq are held on the **second Tuesday afternoons, 4:30-5:30 pm**. Because the war in Iraq continues unabated, members of St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene and Downtown United Presbyterian Church will continue to stand with signs for peace once a month on the corner of Fitzhugh and Broad. Come join us for some or all of the vigil time on **January 13th**.

St. Stephen's

9th Annual Women's Winter Tea Sunday, February 1, 2009

All women are invited to a women's tea reception the first Sunday in February. This is an opportunity for women to come together for light refreshments, tea, sharing with others and **supporting the children at Schools 16 & 29 through donations of school supplies**. St. Stephen's Men's Chorus provides musical entertainment. Women of all ages are invited to this annual event. The event will be held on February 1st from 3-5 pm. Please bring a friend and/or school supplies to donate. This event is hosted by the women of St. Stephen's. Questions: Contact Wendy Sullivan, 328-0856 (please leave a message) or email wendy@sullybrown.com.

Next ECW Invitation

By Nancy Andrus

The next ECW presentation at St. Paul's will be **February 5th (no January meeting)**. The optional luncheon begins at Noon for \$5 per person in the parish hall and the speaker from 1-2 pm. Please call the church office at 271-2240 to reserve a lunch space. Merle Welsh attends the meetings and can answer any questions you may have. I hope to see you there.

Feb. 5 *Will You Be My Valentine?* by Christopher Bensch of the Strong Museum of Play.

Episcopal SeniorLife Communities Opportunities

Episcopal SeniorLife Communities (ESLC) has a proud 140 year history of providing inspired loving care for seniors and helping them lead fulfilling lives in our four resident homes—the Episcopal Church Home for skilled nursing and rehab, River Edge Manor and Seabury Woods patio homes for independent living, Brentland Woods and Seabury Woods for enriched living and memory care. Our staff believes in the estimable worth of each individual, and shows it by treating each patient, client and resident with the care and concern they deserve.

ESLC would like to strengthen our relationship with Episcopalians by having more representatives from our parishes on the volunteer board. Presently we are looking for individuals with skills in the following areas: Service Development for Seniors, Property and Capital Asset Management, Real Estate Development and Financing, Business Efficiency/Work Force Analysis, Information Technology, Fund Raising/Development, Marketing. If you are interested in helping provide our seniors with the highest level of care, or know someone who is, please contact the rector or a vestry member, or call ESLC president Loren Ranaletta at 546-8400. For more information, please go to www.episcopalseniorlife.org.

Choral Scholars Program to Begin

A new program will enhance our music program during the "program year" as we host two choral scholars who will work under the direction of Director of Music Malcolm Merriweather. They will be persons who are already enrolled in a music degree program. In addition to singing they will assist Malcolm in his other duties, including leading sectional rehearsals and perhaps giving a hand at "the baton." The program is being made possible by a grant from an anonymous donor for whom we give great thanks.

Extraordinary Gift & Increased Pledges Lessen Blow on 2009 Budget

An extraordinary gift from John and Nicky Harmon to be used for operating expenses is enabling the parish to both complete 2008 in the black, and lessen the cuts in the 2009 budget which have been previously outlined to the congregation. The gift is enabling most staff cuts to be halved, although the bookkeeping position will still be lost.

The Vestry received this gift with enormous gratitude at its November meeting. John and Nicky, thank you for this amazing blessing!

A revised view of the cuts will be presented at the Annual Meeting on January 25.

As of the writing of this piece, a total of 49 pledges to the 2009 budget had been received. 30 of them showed increased giving, seven remained the same, six were decreases and six were new. Of the returning pledges, an average increase of 21% was achieved. We are well on our way to realizing our goal of a 10% increase in pledging to the parish. This too will keep us from more drastic cuts that would hurt both staff and program dramatically.

The last piece that needs to be in place is the remaining pledges. If you haven't made your pledge yet, please do so as soon as possible! Some cuts may need to be "re-made" if we do not hear from those outstanding.

Columbarium Completed; To be Dedicated January 10

A long-delayed project, authorized by the Vestry many years ago, has been the development of a Columbarium in St. Simon's Chapel. A Columbarium is a place for cremated remains to rest. Our new Columbarium is built into the Altar in St. Simon's Chapel and will hold approximately 30 sets of remains.

A Eucharist will be celebrated to dedicate the



Columbarium and transfer the first three occupants at Noon on Saturday, January 10. The first three occupants have been held in the high pulpit in the church, awaiting the completion of the Columbarium. They are James Chester, Elizabeth Logan, and Rudy McClenney.

Below is the policy related to the Columbarium passed by the Vestry at its November meeting. Up to 20 spaces may be reserved and pre-paid, first come, first served. To reserve a space, call the Office and ask for a Columbarium Reservation form. That will begin the process.

The following are policies adopted by the Vestry in regards to the columbarium:

- The columbarium is only to be used by those who have been, at least some point in history, baptized members of the parish (including its predecessors).
- The requested donation to the Memorial Fund upon remains being placed in the columbarium or reservation being made is a minimum of \$250.00.
- Either or both of the two preceding regulations may be waived by agreement of the rector and wardens of the parish.
- No specialty urns will be accepted. Remains should be presented in the box received from the funeral home or crematorium.
- The names of the deceased will be inscribed on a plaque in the Chapel and records kept in the parish register.

Any questions related to these policies should be directed to the Rector.

Anti-racism Dialogue Continues

A second round of anti-racism dialogues will be held during Epiphany season at Two Saints and St. Stephen's. We will use the same process we used in the summer of 2007, when some 50 parishioners participated.

The dialogue will be held on 5 successive Thursdays beginning January 22, from 6-7:30 pm at St. Stephen's. A light supper will be included. The dialogue will be facilitated by trained members of the parish, working with groups of from 6-12.

The purpose of the dialogues is to dive more deeply into the reality of both personal and institutional racism through personal stories and reflections.

Those who participated in the first round of dialogues gave it very high marks.

The Diocese is in the process of implementing anti-racism training which will be required of all diocesan officers (including Delegates to Diocesan Convention). They will need to take the diocesan training. The Rector is encouraging all officers of the parish either to participate in our own parish dialogue or the diocesan training when it becomes available. The Vestry is going to be asked in the near future to develop a parish policy in this regard.

Please sign up to participate in the dialogues by Sunday, January 15 on the bulletin board in the back of the Church, or by calling the Parish Office.

Confirmation, Reception Preparation Coming

Bishop Singh will make his first visitation to the parish on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009. Anyone who desires to present themselves for confirmation, reception or reaffirmation should let this be known to the rector as soon as possible so that preparation can be arranged. Preparation normally includes a four-session class and work with a sponsor.

Confirmation is for those baptized as children who desire to reaffirm their baptismal vows as adults. Reception is for those baptized as adults and/or confirmed in another denomination who wish to be received into this church. Reaffirmation is for those previously confirmed in the Episcopal Church, but who wish to once again re-affirm their baptismal vows in front of the bishop. More information about these rites is contained in a brochure that can be found on the Resource Table in the back of the church.



Confirmation

Newcomer's Brunch in February

On February 1, we will be hosting our first Newcomer's brunch in 2009. This is a good opportunity for those of you who are new to us, or who are still testing us out, to get to know us better. We share our values and expectations while also encouraging questions. It's an opportunity to share some of our stories, to look at where we've been

and what we're hoping to find. Of course, there's always good food to go along! Look for invitations to come in the mail in mid-January! If you don't receive an invitation, and would like to join us, please call the church office at 546-7730.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee of the Vestry, chaired by Madeline Gamble, has made the following report. Their nominees will be as follows:

WARDEN

Bruce Colburn

VESTRY

Rochelle Coley

Allan Cuseo

Burnetta McCullough

Steve Oller

Michael Laver – two-year term to complete

Armond Kane's position

Carol Dundas – one-year term to complete Walter

Kannapel's position

DELEGATE TO CONVENTION

John Clinton Bradley

Allan Cuseo – one-year term to complete Merle

Anne Welsh's position

ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO CONVENTION

Marge Nead

Sharon Nelson

Marilyn Wienk

Nominations can be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting. All nominees must meet the following requirements in order to be accepted:

- Eighteen years of age
- Communicant in good standing (Wardens must specifically have been confirmed or received)
- Contributor of Record

In addition, nominees for Warden must also be a confirmed member and have served on the Vestry. Please assure all prospective nominees are willing to run before placing their names in for nomination

Nursery Position Open

The Rector is seeking someone to fill the position of Nursery Attendant here at Two Saints beginning January 11, 2009. The hours are from 9:45 am to 11:30 am. Starting salary is \$10 per hour. Applicants should call the Parish Office for an application. Please pass this notice around!

The Word from Two Saints is a publication of:

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JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 1—Holy Name Day

10 am Eucharist (TS)

Sunday, Jan. 4—2nd Sunday after Christmas

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

11:30 am Epiphany Party with Epiphany Games (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

Tuesday, January 6—The Epiphany

12:05 pm Eucharist (TS)

Saturday, January 10

Noon Holy Eucharist & Dedication of Columbarium in St. Simon's Chapel (TS)

Sunday, Jan. 11—1st Sunday after the Epiphany (The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ)

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Baptism & Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Liturgy of the Word (TS)

Sunday, Jan. 18—2nd Sunday after the Epiphany/ Martin Luther King, Jr./All Church Sunday (TS)

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

Sunday, Jan 25—3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity (TS)

Holy Eucharist at 12:05 pm in St. Simon's Chapel:

Every Tuesday & Thursday,

Including January 15 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day),

January 20 (The Confession of Peter), and

January 27 (The Conversion of St. Paul)

Note: On the 20th, celebration will be at approximately 12:45 pm