

THE WORD FROM TWO SAINTS

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

February 2009
A House of Prayer for All People

From the Rector:

Dear Saints,

Another Lent is coming upon us, so it is time to decide, "What am I going to do for Lent?"

Usually we think of this as "giving something up," and that may very well be one aspect of what you decide to do. "Fasting" is one of the traditional Lenten disciplines (along with prayer and alms giving). Think of "fasting" in the broadest sense possible. What do I do now that it would be good for me to stop, at least for these forty days? This could be some sort of food, or it may be something else (try a fast from stress, for instance!).

Lent should not just be about giving something up, however. It should also be about taking something on, especially in regard to prayer. Some simple suggestions: add a time of thanksgiving after you eat a meal, add five minutes of silence to your regular prayer routine, use *Forward Day by Day* during Lent (available in the back of the Church), say Compline before you go to bed. Check the Resource Table in the back of the Church for shortened versions of Morning, Noonday and Evening Prayer and Compline. Choose one and make it your Lenten discipline.

And then there is Almsgiving. The last couple of years we have encouraged giving to Episcopal Relief & Development during Lent. Traditional "Mite boxes" are on the Resource Table in the back of the Church for this purpose. Keep it where you eat and add to it as a part of your grace each day. Bring them in anytime after Palm Sunday. Alternatively you could make a donation to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, which always needs funds to help local people out when they are experiencing a crisis.

What is the real purpose of these disciplines? To bring us closer to God so that when Easter comes, our celebration of the Resurrection may be all the more joyful. May God bless us all as we undertake this journey! May your relationship with God be renewed and strengthened during this holy season!

Lift up your hearts!

Michael



prayer for the good of your soul



fasting for the good of your body



almsgiving for the good of your neighbor

Financial Pledges Reach Goal

When we kicked off our stewardship drive back in the Fall, the Vestry set a goal of raising pledge income by 10%. They knew that was an ambitious goal in this economy, but were also faced with the need to cut way back on our use of endowment funds. Budget cuts would account for some of this cutting back, but pledges needed to increase as well.

We are happy to report that we have met our goal! As of January 25, 69 pledges have been received for a total of \$158,156, a 10.5% increase over 2008 pledges. In addition, the average weekly pledge per household for 2009 pledges is \$44.08, up an impressive 14.4% over 2008. The year Michael began (2004) the average per week was approximately \$25.

Thanks to all who have made a pledge for 2009!

17 South Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614
Email: office@twosaints.org
The Rev. Michael W. Hopkins, Rector
The Rev. John T. Burr, Parish Deacon

Phone (585) 546-7730 Fax (585) 546-7733
Website: www.twosaints.org
The Rev. Mary Ann Brody, Assistant Rector

It's Mardi Gras Time!

On February 22nd we will be celebrating our annual Mardi Gras in the parish hall immediately following our 10 a.m. service. Please plan on staying to enjoy the festivities. The cost this year will be \$7.00 and children under five will be free. Mark your calendars! If you are unable to attend, take-out will be available.



Ash Wednesday Services

All Services with Imposition of Ashes

7:30 am at Two Saints (Chapel)

12:05 pm at Two Saints (Church)

7 pm at St. Stephen's

There will be music at both the 12:05 pm and 7 pm Services.

Upcoming ECW Invitation

By Nancy Andrus

The next ECW presentation at St. Paul's will be **Thursday, February 5th**. 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.

Apr. 2 *Bishop Singh from The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester*

Lenten Service in Sunday School

Our children's Sunday school class will be collecting empty bottles and cans to raise money for a local program that serves people in Rochester. A box will be set up in the church starting with the first Sunday in Lent. Anyone in the parish can contribute cans and bottles that are subject to a deposit return. Sunday school children will take care of emptying the box each week and keeping track of the total number of cans collected, and money "donated". After reviewing several options, the children will decide where to make their monetary donation. So start setting those cans and bottles aside for us!

Lenten Event for 4th and 5th Graders

On Friday, March 6th from 5pm until 8pm, children in grades 4 and 5 are invited to be a part of a World Day of Prayer celebration held at Church of the Ascension on Lake Avenue. Children will tour the sanctuary using all their senses, and learn about our Episcopal liturgy. Five learning centers will be available for children to learn about and make their own prayer "tools", like Anglican prayer beads and window Mandalas. Participants are asked to bring something to add to the Stone Soup that will be made for dinner. Fresh baked bread and homemade apple sauce will round out the meal. Cost is \$2.00 per person. Permission forms are required. They will be available on the back table. Please let our assistant rector know if you are interested in attending.

30 Hour Famine

The 30 Hour Famine is an international youth movement where participants fast for thirty hours and raise funds to help feed and care for children around the world. By sacrificing and serving others, they are learning to think outside themselves and see the world as Christ sees it. During the time the group spends together they learn together about conditions around the world, play games and participate in activities. Youth also have the opportunity to engage in service together in a project that they help to plan. We'll be doing this with youth from St. Stephen's on the weekend of March 20-22. Anyone between the ages of 12 and 18 can attend. Speak to Michael and Annie Laver at 455-1918 or 469-4089 if you'd like to be involved!

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



Confirmation

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.

Come see *Fences* at Geva!

Join a group of folks from St. Luke & St. Simon's and St. Stephen's at the Geva Theater on June 7th at 2.00 pm to see *Fences*. August Wilson's most popular play, *Fences* explores the conflict across generations over the vision of black manhood and the terrible cost of a dream deferred. *Fences* was awarded the 1987 Pulitzer Prize. Last year we had a great turnout for *Cabaret*. This year, we have thirty seats reserved at a cost of \$42.50 per ticket. Put the date on your calendar, and sign up to get tickets in the back of the church. Tickets will be available soon from Allan Cuseo (of St. Luke & St. Simon's).

A Note From Peter Peters:

Dear Two Saints:

I am writing to let you know just what I am up to. During the fall I agreed to serve as a long-term supply priest at St. John's, Canandaigua. In December, after a call to an interim priest did not work out, I was asked to consider serving as the interim. I have agreed to do this and so will not be back at Two Saints, either to worship, or serve as one of your adjunct clergy, for some time to come.

I know that my absence during the continuing work on the covenant with St. Stephen's will be missed and I regret this. I support all that Michael is doing to make a hub of viable urban ministry a reality. But I am also pleased to say that Michael has been very supportive of my undertaking this new challenge of ministry and thank him for this. I am excited at the opportunity to work with the good people of St. John's in their time of transition.

At the end of this interim period I hope once again to be back at Two Saints and join you in this exciting effort to grow as vital urban ministry centers in the city. Please hold me in prayers as I work with St. John's. Please know that Michael, Mary Ann, and all of you will remain in my prayers and that I continue to think of Two Saints as my "home" congregation.

Peace and joy,

Peter

Sojourner's Conference in 2009

Last year five members of St. Stephen's attended the *Vote Out Poverty* conference sponsored by Sojourner's in Washington, DC. The group learned the basics of public advocacy, and came back filled with enthusiasm to do more to help end extreme poverty in the United States. The campaign continues this spring with a follow-up meeting, for new and returning participants.

The *Mobilization to End Poverty* conference is coming on April 26 -- 29, 2009. It will be an historic gathering of thousands of anti-poverty advocates in Washington, D.C. Together, the group will call on President Obama and the new Congress to make overcoming poverty a national priority. Our new president has already been invited to address the conference.

To register, visit www.sojo.net/mobilization, or call 800-714-7474. Registration through February 23 is \$249, (\$140 for students). After February 23, registration is \$299 (\$169 for students). To connect with the group attending from St. Stephen's contact Wendy Sullivan wendy@sullybrown.com, or call the church (328-0856) to leave a message. Group discounts are available.

Shop 'til You Drop Proceeds

Proceeds donated by participating stores and restaurants to RAIHN were: \$1709.26. Thank you to all who shopped on December 1st to benefit RAIHN, and thank you to the generous stores who helped make this possible: One World Goods, Irish & Celtic Imports, Blueground Jewelry, Color Me Mine, Rugged Bear, Camille's, and Coppergrass (the former Farm Fresh Kitchens).

Nancy Frank, Board member and event chairman.

Give Some Loving Spoonfuls

A special Valentine's Weekend food donation program for Monroe/Rochester Districts of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester has been announced to support the Meal and More and St Stephen's Sunday Supper program. Area congregations and individuals are being asked to provide "loving spoonfuls" of food and donation with which to purchase food to provide meals at two urban feeding programs. Members of our congregation are urged to donate food and money donation on Valentines weekend as a sign of the love which they have for those who have great needs and are struggling.

The two feeding programs (sponsored by Episcopal congregations) have been affected by increasing needs and decreasing donations. Area Episcopal congregations are being challenged to have a collection of food and donation to support the ongoing ministry of Meal and More which operates at Christ Episcopal Church on East Avenue and St Stephen's Sunday Supper program on Chili Avenue in the 19th Ward. Food and donations collected will be shared by the two feeding programs and used to help meet the increased number of clients they service in the downtown and southwest sites.

These are food and other items which are especially needed:

- Canned soups
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned vegetables (including beans), canned fruit
- Cereal
- Pasta—spaghetti, egg noodles, elbow macaroni
- Peanut butter
- Tuna
- Canned/boxed meals (ex: beef stew, mac & cheese)
- Toilet Paper
- Bar soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes
- Shampoo, lotion, deodorant
- Winter hats, gloves, Men's winter coats

Diocesan Strategic Listening Sessions

Bishop Singh and the Diocesan Council are inviting members of the Diocese to a strategic listening session to help shape the future of our Diocese. The Bishop and Council want to hear what our passions are! There are two sessions in our area coming up: Tuesday, February 17 at Trinity Church, Greece (3450 W. Ridge Rd.) and Tuesday, March 24 at St.

Paul's Church (East Ave.). Both run from 6-7:30 pm and include a light supper. Please let our Rector know if you plan on coming so that he can turn in a head count.

Annual Meeting Elections

The following persons were elected to offices at our Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 25:

Warden (2 yrs): Bruce Colburn

Vestry (3 yrs.): Rochelle Coley, Allan O'Grady Cuseo, Burnetta McCullough, Steve Oller

Vestry (2 yrs.): Mary Kane, Michael Laver

Vestry (1 yr.): Carol Dundas

Convention Delegate (3 yrs.) John Clinton Bradley

Delegate (1 yr.): Allan O'Grady Cuseo

Alternate Delegates (1 yr.): Marge Nead, Sharon Nelson, Marilyn Wienk

Public Policy Forum: February 15 Health Care Reform

By: Marilyn Wienk

On Sunday, February 15, we will have the opportunity to hear from Christine Wagner, SSJ, about the work of St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, which provides medical treatment for Rochester's underserved patients. As the Executive Director of the Center, she well knows the need for health care reform.

A member of the Interfaith Health Care Coalition of Rochester, Sister Christine Wagner supports a single-payer health care system, otherwise termed "Medicare for All." She will explain and answer questions about what such a national program would involve.

Participants in this forum will also learn how they might advocate for current legislation in Congress, H.R. 676—"The United States National Health Insurance Act" (John Conyers) that supports an American-style single-payer health care system that is publicly financed but privately delivered. Meanwhile you can access more information about H.R. 676 and send a message to your Congressional representatives at the website of the California Nurses Association,

<http://www.GuaranteedHealthcare.org> .

Vision Check-in Team

A “Vision Check-in Team” has been formed which will meet three times to evaluate our Vision Statement and propose any updates to the Vestry. We will also be looking at St. Stephen’s new vision statement and look for ways we might be collaborative with them in achieving both our visions.

The first meeting of this Team will be Saturday, March 10 from 10 am to Noon. In preparation during February we will be reading Diana Butler Bass’ book *Christianity for the Rest of Us*. This book tells the story of a significant number of mainline protestant, centrist or progressive churches that are growing and how they are doing it.

There’s still time to be on the Team. Just speak to Michael Hopkins or Michael Laver. Here’s an excerpt from *Christianity for the Rest of Us*:

Many people think mainline Protestantism is dying, that it is going the way of the dodo in favor of a more lively form of conservative Christianity found in suburban evangelical megachurches. I do not deny that mainline Protestantism is in trouble. Some of its institutions, unresponsive to change, are probably beyond hope of recovery or repair. I also believe, however, that lively faith is not located in buildings, programs, organizations, and structures. Rather, spiritual vitality lives in human beings; it is located in the heart of God’s people and the communities they form. At the edges of mainline institutional decay, some remarkable congregations are finding new ways of being faithful—ways that offer hope to those Americans who want to be Christian but are wary of the religion found in those suburban megachurches.

Discernment Team Begins Work

A Discernment Team has begun to meet, working with Michael Laver on his future call to ministry. The members of the Team are Bruce Colburn, Allan Cuseo, Mary Kane, Lorraine Morgan, and Marilyn Wienk. The Discernment Team’s charge begins with the following:

Discernment is a deliberate, self-conscious and prayerful seeking of God’s will. It is a lifelong process rooted in our daily life and experience. It is an incarnational process tied up with our particular genetics, personalities, histories, gifts, skills,

education and relationships. Discernment is a mutual process wherein there is a sharing of perceptions between the individual and the Christian community. It takes place both in private prayer and in shared conversation. Oftentimes it is informal, but occasionally it needs to be disciplined.

For those considering ordination, discernment means wrestling with one’s personal, baptismal call to ministry in relation to the church’s understanding of and need for ordained leadership. Ordination is just one way an individual may be called to live out his or her baptism.

At the end of nine months, the Team may discern that it is time for Michael to move forward in the process. They and Michael may, of course, also choose for him to remain in his very active lay ministry, or they may simply decide they are not ready to make such a choice. If they choose to move forward in the process, they will make a report to the Rector and the Vestry, who would both need to approve Michael’s application to the Bishop to formally enter the ordination process.

Please keep the members of the Team, and especially Michael, in your prayers.

The First Sunday in Lent: The Great Litany

The First Sunday in Lent (March 1 this year) is an unusual Sunday in that we begin with a litany (a series of prayers/responses). This litany is called “the Great Litany” and it is said in procession.

We use a contemporary form of this prayer, but the Great Litany has a long tradition in Anglican praying. It was the first piece of liturgical prayer published in English after the separation from Rome, in 1544, five years before the first *Book of Common Prayer*. It became a standard part of Sunday worship well into the 19th century. At the time of St. Luke’s founding, for example, Morning Prayer and the Great Litany would have been the principal Service on Sunday mornings, with Holy Communion added once a month.

The Great Litany as printed in the current *Book of Common Prayer* (pp. 148-154) is relatively unchanged from the 1549 Prayer Book.

The Word from Two Saints is a publication of:

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

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

A House of Prayer for All People

17 S. Fitzhugh Street

Rochester, NY 14614

Phone: (585) 546-7730

Web: www.twosaints.org

Non-profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 1986

Rochester, N.Y.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Good News in the Heart of the City since 1817!

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, Feb. 1—4th Sunday after Epiphany

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

Tuesday, January 3—The Presentation

12:05 pm Eucharist (TS)

Sunday, Feb. 8—5th Sunday after the Epiphany/ Absalom Jones/All Church Sunday

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

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

Friday, February 13—Absalom Jones' Day

12:05 pm Eucharist (TS)

Sunday, Feb. 15—6th Sunday after the Epiphany

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

Sunday, Feb 22—Last Sunday after the Epiphany

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity (TS)

Ash Wednesday, February 25

7:30 am Eucharist with Ashes (TS)

12:05 pm Eucharist with Ashes (with Music) (TS)

Sung Eucharist with Ashes (SS)

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

Every Tuesday & Thursday,

Including February 24 (St. Matthias' Day)