

# The word from two saints

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

**May 2009**  
*A House of Prayer for All People*

## From the Rector:

Dear Saints,

*This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified,  
hath sprung to live this morrow.  
Had Christ, that once was slain,  
ne'er burst his three days prison,  
our faith had been in vain;  
but now is Christ arisen!*

All throughout the month of May the air in Church rings out with "Alleluia!" as we continue to celebrate the great Fifty Days of Easter. We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, but we also celebrate our own resurrected life, a life that is eternal, but to which we have access in the here and now.

What does it mean to have access to this resurrected life? It means having access to those three great virtues—faith, hope and love, in the midst of a world that is often faithless, hopeless and loveless. We are resurrected people who are positively rebellious in our confidence in the triumph of faith, hope and love over the powers of sin and death.

This does not mean that we are people who ignore reality. In fact, quite the opposite, we are called to be realists, to see life clearly and honestly in all its joy and in all its brokenness. But having been realists we are not left in despair because we know reality has been redeemed. All has been drawn into the arms of love stretched out on the cross, and that includes us, our whole lives.

Because of this great truth, joy is the simple hallmark of the Christian life. We are joyful people because we are redeemed people. Do we feel joyful all the time? No, of course not. We are redeemed and we are still living into that redemption. Life is

not perfect, yet. But in spite of this, joy characterizes our life as people of faith, hope and love because we know, as St. Paul teaches us, that "nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8).

The great 20<sup>th</sup> century Orthodox theologian Alexander Schmemmann once said that the greatest condemnation that could ever be leveled at Christianity would be that it had no joy. Like everything else in Christian faith, this joy is something that we have first and foremost together. It is always collective even if some days it is not individual. Why else can we say together when we bury our dead, "Yet even at the grave we make our song, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia"?

May you be renewed in joy this Eastertide as through faith, hope and love, you live more fully the resurrected life that God intends for you!

*Michael*

## The Day of Pentecost

*The 50<sup>th</sup> Day of Easter*  
*Sunday, May 31*

Celebrating the Gift of the Holy Spirit  
And the Birthday of the Church!  
It's our annual "Red Day!" Wear red!



17 South Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614  
Email: [office@twosaints.org](mailto: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](http://www.twosaints.org)  
The Rev. Mary Ann Brody, Assistant Rector

## **Mothers' Day Talk: Love Your Enemies**

By Marilyn Wienk

St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church is co-sponsoring Father Louis Vitale's presentation, "Love Your Enemies," at 7:00 pm on Mothers' Day, **May 10**, at St. Joseph's Mother House, 150 French Road in Rochester. Father Vitale, longtime peace activist and author, will also include highlights of his recent trip to Iran as part of this talk. He went to Iran as part of a Fellowship of Reconciliation Civilian Diplomacy Delegation to dialogue with the government and people of Iran. In the light of President Obama's overtures to nations formerly considered our enemies, his presentation will surely inspire a transformation of our "us vs. them" thinking of recent years.

Taking place on Mothers' Day, Father Vitale's message of peace and reconciliation is one at the heart of every spiritual tradition and was the intention of the original Mothers' Day in 1872, which actually began as a Mothers' Peace Day, sparked by Julia Ward Howe, pacifist and suffragist: "Let [us] meet first as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let [us] solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace."

## **Public Policy Forum: Local Responses to Global Warming**

By Marilyn Wienk

On **May 24** Cheryl Frank, a new member of Two Saints, will present information about "Color Brighton Green," a local community group that is encouraging efforts to cut back on greenhouse gas emissions in public and residential buildings. This and other efforts at area churches will comprise this forum on what people can do locally to combat global warming in the face of government intransigence to limit carbon emissions.

Participants in this forum will also learn about "The Genesis Covenant." Begun by Bishop Steven Charleston, "The Genesis Covenant" calls upon the national governing bodies of all faiths to take action to reduce carbon emissions by 50% in the next ten years. Bishop Charleston plans to introduce a resolution to support "The Genesis Covenant" at the next Episcopal General Convention in July 2009. Should such a resolution pass at our General

Convention, we will then be called upon to implement it in our parishes. Information about what other local churches of various denominations and some community organizations have already been doing will be provided to help us determine possibilities beyond what we are already doing at Two Saints to curb our carbon emissions.

## **Come see *Fences* at Geva!**

Join a group of folks from St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene and St. Stephen's at the Geva Theater on **June 7<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 pm** to see *Fences*.

THE STORY: Troy Maxson could have been a baseball star. He once played for the Negro League, but too early to cross the color line. Now, in 1957 Pittsburgh, he has a solid family and a decent job. He drinks with his best friend on Friday nights and turns over the rest of his paycheck to his wife Rose. But Troy still yearns for something beyond his own backyard, and he believes he's found it in the arms of another woman.

THE EXPERIENCE: 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.

THE BUZZ: A 1987 Pulitzer Prize winner. "Universal enough to touch a chord in every human heart". - Variety

THE FINE PRINT: Recommended for high school and older. Some racial epithets.

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 Cyrene).

*Summary by Burnetta McCullough*

## **Upcoming ECW Invitation**

By Nancy Andrus

Please come and join us at the next ECW presentation at St. Paul's Church on **Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**. Our guest speaker a representative from Hurd Orchards. 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.

## Coffee & Conversation?

Wanted: People to meet for coffee and conversation. Let's get together at the new Boulder Coffee on the Corner of Brooks Avenue and Genesee Street. Contact person is Carol Dundas for a date and time.

## Spring Into Spring With The Bible

The Wednesday evening (6 pm) Bible Study group will resume after Easter on **April 29**. It is facilitated by Deacon John Burr and Allan O'Grady Cuseo. Come and join us – bring your favorite version of the Scriptures. Drop in for one or more sessions – all are welcome – and no previous study is necessary.

## Mindful Meditation Retreat

What: A four-hour Silent Mindful Meditation Retreat will be held at St. Stephen's Church. This retreat will incorporate teaching on mindfulness in daily living, loving kindness, sitting and walking meditations, the Blue Tarp Labyrinth and a silent meal. Participants are asked to bring mats or blankets for sitting. This session will be facilitated by Wendy Sullivan, LMSW and Peter Sullivan, LCSW. No meditation experience needed – this retreat is open to the public and wheelchair accessible.

St. Stephen's hosts weekly Mindful Meditation sessions every Tuesday evening from 7 – 8 pm which are free and open to the public.

When: Saturday, May 16, 3 – 7 pm

Where: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 350 Chili Ave. Rochester, NY 14611

Cost: Suggested donation \$15

\*\*Registration is requested for meal planning

**For more information or to register:** Call St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 328-0856 or email [wendy@sullybrown.com](mailto:wendy@sullybrown.com)

## Historical Event Brewing

We are currently working with the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery on a possible event at Two Saints in September that will be part of the city's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration this year. If anyone is interested in working on this event, please contact Nancy in the Office as soon as possible.

## Episcopal SeniorLife Communities Hosts 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

It's time to start dusting off those clubs! Episcopal SeniorLife Communities is pleased to host their 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament at Shadow Lake and Shadow Pines golf courses in Penfield on June 8, 2009. Lunch, barbecue dinner, a premium golf gift, and more will be included in the tournament fee.

Registration and lunch begins at 11 am followed by a tee time at noon. A cocktail social hour will take place at 5 pm followed by dinner and awards ceremony at 6 pm. The proceeds of the tournament go to support wellness programs and recreation activities for ESLC's seniors.

To learn more about the tournament or to register please call Ellen Scalzo, at (585) 546-8439 ext. 3121, or visit [www.episcopalseniorlife.org](http://www.episcopalseniorlife.org) and click "News & Events." Those who are interested in attending the dinner only are encouraged to register as well.

## Urban Ministry Summit May 30

The Episcopal Churches of Monroe County and the City of Rochester are holding an Urban Ministry Summit on Saturday, May 30 from 9 am to 3 pm at St. Paul's Church, East Ave. We are looking for representatives from Two Saints to attend. If you are interested, registration forms are located on the Resource Table in the back of the Church. The Summit seeks to renew our churches' commitment to ministry in the city, better coordinating our current efforts and seeking ways to expand our presence.

The Summit is a direct result of Two Saints' Vision to be "a center for urban mission and ministry for the Diocese of Rochester." The impulse for this summit has come from Two Saints, with the Rector chairing the planning committee.

The Summit will be divided into two parts. In the morning we will hear from city leaders about the current state of the city and their perspective on how the church can be more proactive in meeting the real needs of the city. Keynote speaker will be former mayor William Johnson. In the afternoon we will do some discernment around two questions: How can we be more cooperative in our current efforts? Are there any ways we might explore expanding our ministry?

### **Fair Trade Coffee**

Are you a coffee drinker? Through Equal Exchange's Interfaith Program congregations can enjoy coffee while helping small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the U.S. Through this project farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit, and gain a long-term partner they can trust, a Fair Trade Organization called Equal Exchange. Product lists with prices are available on the coffee hour table. Consider trying a pound or two. Shipping is free, if we purchase four or more cases of coffee. Fill out an order form and return it to Mary Ann Brody or Michael Hopkins. Forms should be in by May 10 to be included in our first order.

### **Vision Check-in Team Working**

A team of parishioners is currently reviewing our Vision Statement after three years. They will recommend to the Vestry any changes it, as well as next steps as we continue to live into it. Please keep this team in your prayers. The members are Madeline Gamble (chair) Mary Maida, Michael Laver, Cheryl Frank, Rob Wheelhouse, Merle Welsh and Sharon Montoya.

### **Covenant Approaches Second Anniversary**

The Covenant for Cooperative Ministry between St. Stephen's and Two Saints will be two years old on July 1. According to its provisions, it must be evaluated at this time and renewed, modified or ended. To this end there will be a joint Vestry meeting on June 4 to evaluate and renegotiate the agreement.

Any parishioners with input can speak to any Vestry member before June 4. What's working? What could be better? Your comments are welcome!

### **Faith in Action Dinner**

This year's Faith in Action Dinner will be held June 2. This annual event is sponsored by the Greater Rochester Community of Churches. At this event, member churches and organizations give thanks for the ministry of one of its members. This year Two Saints will give thanks for the ministry of Madeline Gamble. Tickets for the event are \$35. If you would like to go, speak to Michael Hopkins by Sunday, May 17.

#### **Mission Statement**

Together, as People of God, in companionship with Jesus, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called to be...

A Healing Place for Souls...

A School for Justice, and...

A Welcome Table for All.

### **HipHop E\*Mass Discontinued**

After much deliberation, Michael and Mary Ann, in consultation with the vestry, have made the decision to discontinue HipHop E\*Mass. The monthly service was not drawing in people as we had hoped and there simply weren't enough volunteers from our two churches to sustain it.

It was a grand experiment! Sometimes new ventures succeed, sometimes they do not. Many thanks to all those who supported the Service over its two years.

### **Vestry Report**

At its April meeting your Vestry heard 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter financial reports. We were pleased to see that pledge and regular giving is coming in exactly as predicted. Thanks to everyone for the great effort!

Betty Seidel has resigned as Treasurer. We accepted Betty's resignation with regret and thanks for her service. Lorraine Morgan was elected our new Treasurer and Betty will serve as assistant.

The following is a summary of the Treasurer's Report for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2009. The percentage is of the 2009 Budget.

## May 2009

### Income

Pledges & Regular Giving	\$40,367	25%
Endowment Use	12,525	20%
Grants	4,167	17%
Other Income	5,054	32%
Total	62,113	23%

### Expenses

Mission	\$7,050	19%
Personnel	52,736	27%
Administration	3,496	28%
Building	19,221	38%
Program	2,383	13%
Total	84,886	27%

#### Two things to note:

- Expenses are ahead of income because \$40,000 was received last year for this year's expenses. This has not only kept us current, but also enabled us to lessen our draw from Endowment for the first half of 2009.
- As a percentage, expenses are ahead of income due mostly to the fact that most of our heating costs are concentrated in this first quarter of the year.

### **Lenten Special Offerings**

Three special offerings were taken during Lent:

- The total collected by the Sunday School for their mission project was \$84.85. Thanks to all who brought in cans and bottles!
- The Good Friday Offering (which goes from the Episcopal Church to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem was \$256.28.
- Total from the "mite boxes" for Episcopal Relief & Development was \$114.93.

### **Palm Sunday Bishop's Visit**

The Rt. Rev. Prince Singh made his first visit to Two Saints on Palm Sunday. Two persons were received into the Episcopal Church: Cheryl Frank and Mary Rogan. The Vestry hosted a great reception and then met with the Bishop for an hour. He asked the Vestry to share the congregation's passions and spoke about the future that is beginning to take shape through the listening

process in the Diocese that is being held during the first half of 2009.



*Bishop Singh with newly received Cheryl Frank (left, holding her daughter) and Mary Rogan.*

***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

**Non-profit Org.**

**U.S. Postage**

**PAID**

**Permit No. 1986**

**Rochester, N.Y.**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Phone: (585) 546-7730

Web: [www.twosaints.org](http://www.twosaints.org)

***Good News in the Heart of the City since 1817!***

## MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, May 3—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

### **Sunday, May 10—5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

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

### **Sunday, May 17—6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter/ Rogation Sunday/All Church Sunday (TS)**

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist & Blessing of the Genesee (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

### **Thursday, May 20—Ascension Day**

12:05 pm Eucharist (TS)

7 pm Sung Eucharist (SS)

### **Sunday, May 24—7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity (TS)

### **Sunday, May 31—The Day of Pentecost**

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

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

Every Tuesday & Thursday