

The word from two saints

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

September 2009
A House of Prayer for All People

From the Rector:

Dear Saints,

Another fall and another exciting program year ahead of us!

I look forward to many things, but most of all the wonderful cycle of worship that blesses us each fall. We begin with the annual Porch Mass followed by the Patronal Feast of St. Simon Cyrene (the Sunday within the octave of Holy Cross Day). St. Luke's Sunday comes a few weeks later in mid-October. Then it's time for All Saints' Sunday at the beginning of November, then Advent begins this year on November 29.

Add in the Blessing of the Animals, this year's 175th Anniversary of Rochester Service, and our annual Thanksgiving Service with St. Mary's, not to mention our regular worship every Sunday, and you've got a rich feast of prayer and praise. Never let it be said that Two Saints doesn't know how to worship!

A couple "new" faces will greet us in worship this fall. Anne Laver returns as Director of Music. It's not often that a "fond memory" returns! We all look forward to Annie's work with the choir and her exquisite organ playing.

The Rev. Canon Denise Yarbrough joins us as Priest Associate (for both Two Saints and St. Stephen's). Canon Yarbrough is the Canon for Christian Formation and Theological Education. She also works with Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in the Anglican Studies and Lifelong Learning programs. Before coming to work for the Bishop she was the Rector of St. Mark's, Penn Yan. She will divide her time between Two Saints and St. Stephen's.

We are so blessed here at Two Saints with a wide variety of people who make worship happen from Altar Guild to Ambassadors, Subdeacons and

Acolytes, Readers, Choir members and Bread Bakers. What a privilege it is for me to preside over all this offering.

May this fall be a time of personal growth for each one of us and may our parish grow in spirit and in numbers as we worship the God of love.



175th Anniversary Open House & Celebration October 4

On Sunday, October 4, Two Saints will host a Service of Worship marking the 175th Anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Rochester. The Service will be Interfaith, using resources from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu traditions. The Service will begin at 3 pm.

Prior to the Service, beginning at 12:30 pm, there will be an Open House in the Church with guided tours, historical displays and period organ music. Colonel Rochester himself is expected to be in attendance.

If you would like to be trained as a tour guide, please speak to the Rector as soon as possible.

The event is being co-sponsored by other churches that were in existence when the city was incorporated: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Third Presbyterian Church, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church, Incarnate Word Lutheran Church, and Asbury First United Methodist Church.

Invite your friends and neighbors. This promises to be a grand event. Bishop Prince Singh will be with us for worship.

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

Porch Mass Sunday September 13

Our annual outdoors Service will be held at 10 am on September 13, followed by a cookout.

It's "bring a friend" Sunday, as well as bring a dish to pass for the cookout. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. There will be fun activities for the kids also.

Pray for good weather! Let's kick off the program year with a lot of fun.

More about *Invite a Friend*

In the back of the church you can find invitations to hand to friends to invite them to our porch mass and cookout. Pick up two or three. Set yourself a goal of handing them out to people you think might like to join us for that day. Write the name of the people you have invited on a slip of paper and place it in the "friends" basket at the start of our porch mass. These friends will be added to our prayers that Sunday, whether they decide to join us or not. Certainly we want "friends" to attend so that they can get to know us and enjoy our fellowship. But perhaps even more than that, we want to become a community that is comfortable asking friends to our church. Help us spread the word!

Tickle the Ivories? Dance a jig?

An autumn Talent Show at St. Stephen's, sponsored by Two Saints. Calling all singers, dancers, jugglers, and other talented Saints, for a talent show to be held in late September or October. Any interested parties may contact Pat Wheelhouse at pathouf@yahoo.com. Please indicate your given talent. A planning meeting will be held in August. Stay tuned for more!

A Drumming Circle ... or what?

We've had our four Tuesdays and two Sundays with Drummer Ed at St. Stephen's. Is there something more we would like to do? Consider joining a conversation to talk about "what's next" with hand drumming on Thurs., Sept. 3 at 7pm at St. Stephen's. Can't make the meeting – but you're interested? Speak to our Assistant Rector, Mary Ann Brody (328-0856).

Camp-Out for the Homeless: September 25-26

This is an event designed to raise awareness of housing issues in Rochester, and to raise money for

Eastman Commons, a supportive housing community. The idea is to build shelters, with cardboard, duct tape, imagination and teamwork or to pitch a tent to spend the night outdoors. Participants collect donations from sponsors who pay to have you live in a box or tent overnight. We'll share a meal, learn more about Eastman Commons, share stories and experience a small part of what it means to "live" without a house and walls around us. We'll end the overnight with breakfast and worship together Saturday morning. Two sites are currently being proposed, St. Peter's in Henrietta, or Epiphany Church in Gates. Be a part of helping to raise money to support the Eastman Commons project. All are welcome! Sponsor packets are available in the back of the church. For now - save the date!

Sunday School Registration is Coming

At the Porch mass (and on Sept. 20) we will be registering children and youth for Sunday school.

Our children's class will continue to be based on Bible stories from both the Old and New Testaments followed by wondering, and an activity. The children's class will continue to meet every week, except on All Church Sundays.

Our youth class will have a different look and schedule, including DVD presentations, Talksheets and guest speakers to spark conversation about faith in life. The youth class will meet only twice a month, generally the second and fourth Sundays, unless that conflicts with an All Church Sunday. Diocesan youth gatherings are in the works! The first activity is the Nightwatch at St. Thomas' Church in Bath on October 3 & 4.

Calling All Acolytes!

On Sunday, September 20th, the day we celebrate St. Simon of Cyrene, we will also be celebrating the ministry of our acolytes. All acolytes are encouraged to vest for the 10 am service and join the procession. During our service we will commission our acolytes and give them a sign to wear as a mark of their ministry among us. Our children and youth have done a lot to add to our worship together. Parents, please put this date on your calendar so that the acolyte in your family has a chance to be recognized by the church!

Nightwatch

Join other youth on October 3 & 4 for an overnight Nightwatch program at St. Thomas' Church in Bath, NY. The event will focus on the lives and plight of animals. The group will help at the new campus of the Finger Lakes SPCA for a day-long service project. Return to church for dinner, games, activities, a labyrinth walk, music, and a midnight mass by candlelight.

Overnight in sleeping bags in the church. Worship on Sunday will be youth led and will focus on the lives and plight of animals in honor of the feast of St. Francis. The service will conclude with a Blessing of the Animals. Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to attend. A \$15 donation is requested. Sleeping bag and overnight clothes are required. All meals and snacks will be provided. Adult chaperones with Safe Church Training are needed. Registration is required by September 15.

A Message From Annie Laver

Dear Saints,

It is a great pleasure to be able to serve you again as Music Director! I look forward to the beautiful music we will make together! Here are a few announcements regarding the music program at Two Saints:

Adult Choir will resume on Wednesday, September 9 at 7 pm. We'll be working on music for the porch mass on Sept 13. Please join us, even if you would only like to participate in the Porch Mass.

Children's Choir will kick off on Sunday, September 20 after the 10 am worship service with an ice cream social. All ages are welcome and encouraged to join in this event! We will meet briefly after the late service each week for games and singing. Our aim is to sing in the Eucharist on All Church Sundays.

If you are interested in helping plan a Lunchtime Concert Series during the Advent season at Two Saints, please contact Annie at 469-4089 or at

anne.laver@rochester.edu

We will need expertise in many areas, not just musical: consider joining this effort if you would be able to help with publicity, organizing ushers, creating programs, etc.

Please take note of these upcoming concerts:
Sunday, September 13: 4 pm: Todd Wilson, organ

virtuoso and Head of the organ department at the Cleveland Institute of Music will give the opening concert of the Rochester Celebrity Organ Recital Series. Tickets are \$10/\$5 students. Contact Annie Laver for more information and a series brochure.

Annie Laver will be participating in an international organ competition devoted to the music of 17th century composer Dieterich Buxtehude in Luebeck, Germany September 26-October 6. She will be playing a number of concerts to prepare for the event:

Sunday, August 30: 1 & 3 pm at the Memorial Art Gallery

Friday, September 18: 7 pm at St. Michael's Church (124 Evergreen St; corner of Clifford and Clinton Ave.)

St. Stephen's New Orleans' Jazz Dinner!

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is hosting a New Orleans jazz dinner featuring authentic New Orleans' dishes including Creole Chicken, Sausage Jambalaya, Gumbo, Beans N' Rice, White Chocolate & Cranberry Bread Pudding, and Pralines. Live Jazz will be provided by local jazz musician Tim Sullivan & friends (including talented members of St. Stephens). This fund raiser will support the urban ministries of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Rochester.

Like New Orleans, St. Stephen's is inclusive and reflects African- American, African, Caribbean, European, Anglican and Episcopal traditions with over a century of caring in the city as ministers of the Gospel. St. Stephen's is committed to urban ministry and reflects the joy of being "urban by Choice" in the southwest corner of the city. St. Stephen's is wheelchair accessible.

When: Saturday, September 19, 2009 from 6 – 9 pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 350 Chili Ave., Rochester, NY 14611.

Cost: \$20 a ticket – reservations requested (and recommended).

For more information or reservations, contact the church at 585-328-0856 or email wendy@sullybrown.com including preferred seating time.

Adult Formation is Gearing Up for the Fall

As September approaches note these adult formation opportunities:

Weekly Bible Study resumes on Wed., September 9th from 6-7:00 PM at Two Saints (17 S. Fitzhugh Street). The group will continue to study the Old Testament using a series of explorations from the text, *Discovering the Old Testament*. Cost of the text is \$10.

The face-to-face group in EfM begins meeting on September 9th from 5:30-7:00 PM at St. Stephen's. We will end early that evening because of the vestry meeting.

Amos and Hosea: Boundaries, Tough Love, Amazing Grace is an evening series planned to begin in October. This study challenges study groups to join the prophets in being boundary-crossers; to cross the boundary between religion and politics, or that boundary between "us" and "them". Amos' and Hosea's message is surely relevant for a society such as ours, divided on issues of theology, politics, economics, government, and morality. We need to hear about God's tough love and amazing grace which are extended by God to a people who have often broken the divine heart. Watch for a sign-up in September!

CASA Looking for Volunteers

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is looking for volunteers to serve as advocates for the best interests of abused and/or neglected children. Responsible adults who are interested in making a difference in the life of a child are encouraged to join CASA's team of volunteers. CASA will hold a training course for prospective volunteers in October 2009. Prior to attending the training course, prospective volunteers must submit a completed application packet and be interviewed. To learn more, please call (585) 428-5297 or visit the CASA website at www.casarochester.org.

A Day to Remember

By Jackie Hopkins

Sunday, 26 July 2009, was Robert Moore, Sr.'s 81st birthday. In memory of "Buzz," the Altar flowers were given by the Moore Family and in his honor "Take the A Train" by Duke Ellington was played

for the postlude. Michael also announced that the annual Eastman Scholar Award was changed to the Robert Moore Scholarship by the donor.

Spirituality Fair at Good Book Store

The Good Book Store at Diocesan House (935 East Ave.) is sponsoring a Spirituality Faith on Saturday, September 12 from 10am to 3 pm. All ages are invited. Here's the schedule of events:

10 am Carter Williams author of *Glorious Adventure* with her wisdom across generations

10:45 am Al Keeney, Canon to the Ordinary, Experiencing Icons

11:30 am Charles Noland, author of children's books on *The Adventures of Dew and Ellie*

12:15 pm Intergenerational crafts and lunchtime with Hot Diggity Dogs

1:00 pm Giving everyday life more spiritual insight through food and animals with Krista and Dancey-Girl

1:45 pm The Rev. Dahn Gandell, using prayer beads and other forms of prayer

2:30 pm The Rev. Sid Symington, dramatic Biblical storytelling

Is Your Name Missing from the Ministries List?

If your name is missing from the ministries list it may be because we didn't receive a time and talent pledge form from you and so don't know your preferences for this year. Please fill one out! They're located on the Resource Table in the back of the Church. Just put it in the offering plate or mail it in. Thanks!

If you did fill out a form and your name is missing, feel free to give Nancy Andrus a call and make sure we have the right information. (Note: It takes us more than a month to go through the entire list of 10 am readers).

Health Care: Going beyond Me and Mine

By Marilyn Wienk

The brouhaha over health care reform at many town hall meetings in August obscured the reality that the 85% of us who already have some form of health insurance will not lose it under any of the proposed

plans before Congress, and the 15% currently with no coverage at all will gain it. You and your grandma—in either category—are not likely to suffer loss but will actually gain a better health care system if a reform bill passes with a strong public health insurance option as part of the package.

Ideally we would probably all be better off if “single payer” were the proposed reform legislation. Single payer means the sole insurer would be the government in a program much like the current successfully run Medicare system. However, because of the huge resistance on the part of insurance companies who would lose their \$10 billion-a-year profits, President Obama is calling instead for a compromise plan in which private insurance companies could continue to operate alongside a “public option” for people who cannot afford to buy insurance without some assistance from the government. Bills in both the House and Senate that have strong support currently include a public option. The question now is whether these bills will gain enough votes ultimately to pass.

As you write your letters to our Senators and your district’s House Representative about this issue (and I hope you will), you might want to mention that General Convention in Anaheim this past July passed a resolution (DO48), calling for federal legislation to establish a “single payer” universal health care program but meanwhile directing the Office of Government Relations in Washington, D.C., to negotiate the range of proposed federal health policies that will improve the health care system until a single payer program is established. You can read the full text of this resolution at <http://gc2009.org/ViewLegislation>.

It is time for America to move beyond the selfish concern for *me and mine* that was so often voiced at these town hall meetings and insist on adequate and affordable health care for everybody in the United States.

For more details on the current health care debate and legislation, I highly recommend the Friends Committee on National Legislation’s website: www.fcnl.org. Click on “More Issues” on the left hand side of the Home Page, and then on Health Care. I got the statistics mentioned above from their *Washington Newsletter* (July/August, 2009).

General Convention Reflections

By the Rev. Michael W. Hopkins

This was my fifth General Convention. I have gone as a volunteer for Integrity and as an alternate deputy from two different dioceses. My experience this year was probably the most positive of those I have attended. I found the general tone of the Convention much more civil. There was much less harshness from opposing sides. It felt like we were one church even if in disagreement.

As a volunteer for Integrity my job was to work with the legislative team tracking resolutions through committees and onto the floor of the House of Bishops or House of Deputies. My primary assignment was to be the liaison to the House of Bishops. I tried to keep bishops up to date and make sure they were aware of Integrity’s position on various matters.

As an alternate deputy I served on the floor of the House of Deputies (“switching credentials” with a deputy) for three legislative sessions. I very much enjoy this work—keeping track of the issues being discussed and voting when that is called for. It is a bit like “old home” week in that I have a lot of friends from around the country who serve as deputies. In fact the whole Convention is a bit like an enormous family reunion.

A couple of high points for me: First of all the Integrity Eucharist. This is always special for me (I presided at the ones in 2000 and 2003), but this year blew the walls off! The liturgy was one of the best I have ever been to on any occasion. The Gospel procession alone was worth the whole evening. It was quite long, snaking through the crowd of some 1,200 people. We sang an African song—a repetitive line. The deacon was swaying from side to side with the gospel book and people were reaching out to touch it. It brought tears to my eyes. Tell me we don’t love the Scriptures!

Second of all, the moment that resolution D025 passed in the House of Bishops was a moment of redemption for me. I had been present three years before when B033 passed, effectively putting a moratorium on lesbian or gay people from being elected bishops. It had been an awful moment. Now I watched the same House affirm the ministries of lesbian and gay people in all orders of ministry. People can still vote their consciences,

but now there is not a resolution that tells them how to vote. It was a joyous moment.

I'm grateful to the Two Saints family for supporting me in this time away. I really do carry you with me. My witness is your witness and your witness is mine.

By John Clinton Bradley

Anaheim was my fifth General Convention and--like the others--I was cloistered inside Integrity's "Nerve Center" at a nearby hotel most of the time. My team provided logistical support to more than 30 Integrity volunteers as they lobbied bishops and deputies, talked to the press, produced a daily television program, and staffed an exhibit booth. We used "new media" more than ever at this General Convention--networking internally and externally through digital communication channels such as Blogger, Facebook, Twitter, and Red Oxygen. As always, the Integrity Eucharist was a glorious event attended by an estimated 1500 people; we were twice blessed with Bishop Gene Robinson [the first openly gay bishop] as presider and Bishop Barbara Harris [the first woman bishop] as preacher.

Integrity's theme for this General Convention was, "All the sacraments for all the baptized!" We worked and prayed that our bishops and deputies would approve legislation to move the Episcopal Church beyond discrimination in the episcopate and forward on marriage equality for same-gender couples. Integrity is extremely grateful that this hope was fulfilled by the passage of two resolutions...

- D025 strongly affirms the Episcopal Church's desire to remain united with the Anglican Communion while declaring our conviction that partnered gay and lesbian people are suitable candidates for all orders of ministry, including the office of bishop.
- C056 authorizes the collection and development of theological and liturgical resources for blessing same-gender couples and gives bishops the discretion to provide a "generous pastoral response" to gay and lesbian couples--particularly in states that recognize same-gender civil marriages, civil unions, and domestic partnerships.

Our task over the next triennium is to translate the policy changes enacted in Anaheim into common practice at all levels of the Episcopal Church.

October—December Events

- Sat, Oct 3 10 am Blessing of the Animals
- Sun, Oct 4 12:30-3 pm Open House
3 pm 175th City Anniversary Service
- Sun, Oct 18 Patronal Feast of St. Luke (All Church Sunday including Breakfast)
- Sun, Nov 1 All Saints Sunday (incl. baptism)
All Church Sunday (no breakfast)
- Fri, Nov 6 Diocesan Convention
- Sat, Nov 7 9 am Convention Eucharist
- Tues, Nov 24 6 pm Thanksgiving Service
At St. Mary's Church
- Sun, Nov 29 Advent begins!
- Sat, Dec 5 5 pm St. Nicholas' Party
- Sun, Dec 20 Fourth Advent (All Church Sunday including breakfast)
- Thurs, Dec 24 Christmas Eve
6 pm Child-friendly Service
10 pm "Midnight Mass"



We welcome Canon Denise Yarbrough as Priest Associate of Two Saints & St. Stephen's

Members of Two Saints and St. Stephen's enjoyed a boat ride this summer on Lake Ontario.



Riders included Dawn Moore (back to camera), Burnetta McCullough, Carol Dundas, Bruce Colburn, Merle Welsh, and Herman and Jennifer Gourdine.



The staff and Office Volunteers enjoyed a summer cookout at the home of John & Toni Burr in early August. Fun was had by all, and the food was great! And Toni's gardens were a magnificent setting! Pictured are Nancy Andrus & Malcolm Merriweather.



Rapper D.O. visited the Right On School for the third year in a row, bringing a message of non-violence and self-respect. The kids love him very much. D.O. hails from Toronto.



Jackie Hopkins serves up ice cream at the Right On School Carnival in early August at School #20.



The carnival is an annual event that not only provides fun for the children, it makes money for the school. One hundred and twenty five children attended Right On School this summer.

**U.S. Congregational Life Survey
Returns**

Some time ago, many Two Sainters participated in the US Congregational Life Survey. In fact, 60 Two Sainters participated. We've got the results back and here's a sampling (you can look at the whole return in the parish hall on the picture board).

How long have you been going to worship services or activities at this congregation:

- 3% Less than one year
- 7% 1-2 years
- 13% 3-5 years
- 8% 6-10 years
- 30% 11-20 years
- 37% More than 20 years
- 2% Just visiting

To what extent do the worship services or activities of this congregation help you with everyday living?

- 64% A great extent
- 32% some extent
- 3% a small extent
- 0% not at all

Over the last year, how much have you grown in your faith?

- 0% No real growth
- 47% some growth
- 38% much growth, mainly through this congregation
- 7% Much growth, mainly through other groups or congregations
- 9% Much growth, mainly through my own private activities

Do you agree or disagree: "My spiritual needs are being met in this congregation or parish"?

- 40% strongly agree
- 47% Agree
- 8% Neutral or unsure
- 5% Disagree
- 0% Strongly disagree

Have you ever had a conversion experience or a moment of decisive faith commitment?

- 53% Yes
- 14% No
- 33% Unsure

How satisfied are you with what is offered here for children and youth (less than 19 years of age)?

- 18% very satisfied
- 37% Satisfied
- 32% Mixed feelings
- 0% Dissatisfied
- 0% Very dissatisfied
- 14% Not sure

Does this congregation have a clear vision, goals, or direction for its ministry and mission?

- 2% I'm not aware of such a vision or direction
- 4% There are ideas but no clear vision
- 75% Yes, and I'm strongly committed to them
- 12% Yes, and I'm partly committed to them
- 7% Yes, but I'm not committed to them

While you may value many different styles of music, which two of the following do you prefer in congregational worship?

- 60% Traditional hymns
- 14% Praise music or choruses
- 21% Contemporary hymns
- 2% Other contemporary music or songs
- 3% Sung responsorial psalms
- 10% Classical music or chorales
- 3% Contemplative chants
- 29% Music from a variety of cultures
- 41% Gospel music
- 0% No music or songs
- 2% Don't know

Do you agree or disagree: "In general, there is a good match between our congregation and our priest"?

- 57% Strongly agree
- 33% Agree
- 10% Neutral or unsure
- 0% Disagree
- 0% Strongly disagree

Which of the following is the best description of the style of leadership of your priest?

- 9% Leadership that tends to take charge
- 56% Leadership that inspires people to take action
- 31% Leadership that acts on goals that people here have been involved in setting
- 4% Don't know
- 0% Leadership where the people start most things

The Word from Two Saints is a publication of:

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A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

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Rochester, NY 14614

Phone: (585) 546-7730

Web: www.twosaints.org

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SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 6—14th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

Sunday, September 13—15th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

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

Tuesday, September 15—Holy Cross Day (trans.)

12:05 pm Eucharist

Sunday, September 20—Patronal Feast of St. Simon

Cyrene: All Church Sunday

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

Tuesday, September 22—St. Matthew's Day (trans.)

12:05 pm Eucharist

Sunday, September 27—17th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Meeting (TS)

Tuesday, September 29—St. Michael & All Angels

(Michaelmas)

12:05 pm Eucharist

*Every Tuesday & Thursday
12:05 pm Eucharist in the Chapel*