

From the Rector:

Dear Saints,

In our Vision Statement we say we seek to be a “House of Prayer for All People,” itself a vision of the prophet Isaiah for the temple of his day. We try to fulfill this vision on those weekdays that the church is open, as people come in, many of them to commune with their God.

Once and awhile we get to fulfill this vision in a big way. Such is the event we are hosting on October 4: an Interfaith Service Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the City of Rochester.

The Service will feature the participation of seven churches that were in existence when the City of Rochester was incorporated: St. Paul’s Episcopal, Incarnate Word Lutheran, Third Presbyterian, Memorial A.M.E. Zion, Asbury First United Methodist, St. Mary’s Roman Catholic and ourselves. There will also be representatives of the Jewish, Muslim and Hindu traditions. Our own Bishop Singh will be with us also.

Prior to the Service at 3 pm, beginning at 12:30 pm, there will be an Open House with guided tours, historical displays and period organ music. A team of Two Sainters has been working hard to make this happen.

It is a strong part of the vocation of this parish to pray for the city. This will be a special time of doing so. I hope you’ll come for a grand day.

And don’t forget the Blessing of the Animals the day before (Saturday, October 3 at 10 am), an always fun Service, whether you share your life with an animal or not. All animals and their people are welcome! We’re working on a cow as our special guest this year.

Lift up your hearts!

Michael



The Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 3
10 am

All God’s Creatures Welcome!



Diocesan Urban Ministry Fair October 25

The Rochester Urban Ministry Task Force of the Diocese is sponsoring a Ministry Fair on Sunday, **October 25 from 1 pm to 4 pm** at the Church of the Ascension (Lake Ave & Riverside St). This will be a chance to gain exposure to the various ministries of our parishes, share ideas and explore new avenues of ministry. If you are a part of a ministry that wants to have a display, please let Michael know ASAP. Otherwise put this on your calendar for a fun and informative afternoon.

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).

Relieving Pain and Restoring Function - Educational Session

Episcopal SeniorLife Communities at The Center for Rehabilitation invites you to join us for a special education session with the renowned Dr. Stephen Kates, Orthopedic Surgeon and Co-Director of the Geriatric Fracture Center at Highland Hospital. Dr. Kates will discuss joint wellness and the importance of joint care. Feel free to bring a guest and learn more about the importance of recovering at home after rehab. All attendees will receive a special gift! Refreshments and appetizers will be served. Save the date! **Thursday, October 29 from 2:30 - 4:30 pm** at The Chapel of the Good Shepherd at The Episcopal Church Home. 505 Mt. Hope Ave. Rochester, NY 14620.

Please RSVP by Thursday, October 15 to Becky Johnson at 546-8439 x 3145 or email bjohnson@episcopalseniorlife.org.

All Saints' Day Coming

All Saints' Day is one of the major feasts on the Church calendar. It occurs every year on November 1 which this year is a Sunday. All Saints is a little Easter, as we celebrate the resurrection of the people of God into the communion of saints.

One of our All Saints customs is prayer for those who have gone before us. Look for sheets in the back of the church for you to list those you want remembered. These are read during the liturgy. The last few years these names have included those murdered in the city of Rochester over the past year. We will include them again this year if that list is available.

Some wonder why it is we pray for the dead, as this is not the custom of many of our Protestant brothers and sisters. The Catechism in *the Book of Common Prayer* gives this question and response:

Why do we pray for the dead?

We pray for them, because we still hold them in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is.



Feast of All Saints

This year's All Saints Services will be our regular Sunday morning Services.

Stewardship Note

The following is an excerpt from a sermon by the Rt. Rev. Gregory Rickel, Bishop of Olympia

For one night in the last two weeks I have presented Stewardship Training to about 70 people at Saint Mark's Church in Little Rock. This is, of course, the season for such things and I enjoy it. There comes a point in these workshops where I ask people to

think about and share their first memories of money. Some do so. Then I ask everyone to share their stories with others in small groups. The stories are often funny, touching, sometimes sad, but always interesting, even to those who are telling them. For most of us it is not something we think about very often, if ever. After about 10 minutes of conversation, usually spent by people having a lot of fun at their tables telling the stories, I announce that the audience has just spent 10 minutes talking about money. And that this is about 10 minutes longer than most people ever do with anyone except their closest family members.

Then we share some of the stories. There is one story that comes up more often than any other. It comes in lots of forms and details, but it is basically the same story. It is the familiar story of a grandfather or grandmother, or father or mother, or aunt or uncle, who gives a silver dollar to someone, sometimes every year for birthday or Christmas, but at least once. And invariably, sometime in the story, the person will say, "I still have that silver dollar." ... or "those silver dollars." ... or whatever the gift might have been. They still have it.

Sometimes the same people will later share stories of hard times in their lives when they were barely surviving. And I just want to ask, and sometimes have, "Did you ever think about spending that silver dollar?" The answer is almost always a resounding "NO WAY."

You see, that silver dollar was rendered worthless to the world market and economy because it was attached to a relationship. In fact, it is no longer seen as a dollar, as a means of exchange for anything. It is what it is, a gift, a special gift that comes packed with special memories. While it has been rendered worthless to the economy, it has become priceless in the heart of its holder.

Now that is interesting, if the silver dollar had no relational attachment to it, it would be a possession. You would own it. It could be spent easily. And with the relational attachment it is still a possession. You still own it. But it is not spent near as easily and it is possessed in a new way, a way which makes one care for it. Because it seems it is not just yours but it is also a part of someone else. The giver is part of it. For you to part with the silver dollar - that molded piece of metal - would be to part with your memory of the one who gifted you with it.

That is stewardship. It is no longer just a possession but something you care for.

ImageOut Movie Sponsored

Each year Two Saints is a community partner for one of the movies at the ImageOut Film Festival. This gets us some free advertising and a chance to associate ourselves with one of the major events of the Rochester LGBT community.

Our film this year is entitled "Family." Here's an excerpt from the blurb in the festival program:

"'Family' tells the story of six black lesbians who make a pact to finally come out of the closet. Each woman has her own unique reason for staying in the closet until now...So much baggage must be addressed, and so many consequences must be weighed as they work on keeping their word to their friends to reveal their secrets to family, friends and the world-at-large....What is unique about 'Family' is that through following the six women as they each embark on their own personal journey of coming out, the film actually takes on the issues of race, religion, fluid sexual identities, and motherhood as they relate to the women's personal lives and identities."

The film is scheduled for Saturday, October 10 at 4 pm at the Little Theater. Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.imageout.org.

Walktober for Right On School

The second annual Walktober is being held on Sunday, October 18 from 3-5 pm. The walk is by multiple groups that work with children and the relief of poverty. Right On School is one of those organizations. If you walk for the Right On School, every one of your pledge dollars goes to the Right On School. The walk is a 5K, beginning at Salem UCC, 60 Bittner St.

For pledge forms see the back of the Church or call the Office. You must bring one non-perishable food item as a registration "fee" to walk.

Among the sponsors of this year's walk is the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

Youth & Church

Our youth this year will be meeting on only two Sundays a month. The schedule will be handed out at the first class on September 27th. The youth will

be participants in planning the year, so nothing is "cut in stone". We are relying on their honesty and enthusiasm to lead us! We have a variety of resources to bring to the table, but it will be up to our young people to help us think about how they might fit together, to bring in fresh ideas, and to come up with a focus for our "mission" oriented year. Regular attendance, especially at the start, will be vital if we are to hear the voices of these young people and make a plan that works for them.

On All Church Sundays, we will be once again be intentionally integrating our generations in worship. Our youth are encouraged to take part in these celebrations. We need readers, prayer leaders, acolytes, crucifers, singers and greeters on All Church Sundays, and we would be especially delighted if our youth took on some of these roles! If you're the parent of a teen, encourage them to be involved in our worship, and be an example for them to follow!

Bishops Lobby Congress on Social Justice Issues

[Episcopal News Service – Washington, D.C.] Bishops representing 200,000 Episcopalians from Maine to California made the case for health care and immigration reform, and stricter environmental protection on Capitol Hill Sept. 16.

Together as "Bishops Working for a Just World" and organized by the Episcopal Public Policy Network's capitol-based Office of Government Relations, the seven bishops, guided by General Convention resolutions, made their annual trip to Washington, D.C., Sept. 14-16 to lobby Congress, meeting with more than 30 elected officials and/or their legislative staffs, on behalf of the Episcopal Church.

"Our involvement says that it's appropriate for Christians to be involved in conversation about social issues and bring an informed, theological perspective to the discussion," said Diocese of Connecticut Bishop James E. Curry, the group's convener. "We [bishops] model that, and I could make the case that that is more important than taking a stand [on a specific issue]."

Bishops Working for a Just World is a caucus within the House of Bishops devoted to fulfilling the baptismal covenant to "strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human being."

"We began in 1993 to try to reclaim our public voice," Curry said.

The bishops' three-day meeting included a workshop on community organizing, guest speakers, and a legislative briefing by OGR staff, a prayer vigil and Eucharist. The visit also coincided with release of Montana Democratic Senator Max Baucus' and the Senate Finance Committee's plan to remake the health care system and offer coverage for millions of uninsured.

"The bill wasn't received well," said DeWayne Davis, OGR's domestic policy analyst, adding that the Senate will have to work in the coming weeks to reconcile its differences and that the House is still working on its bill.

"Members still believe that we are going to get health care this year," he said.

July's General Convention passed several health-care-related resolutions (C071, D048 and D088) in support of universal access to quality and affordable health care in the United States, and called on Congress to pass comprehensive health-care reform this year. It also adopted Resolution B006, which called for comprehensive immigration reform that would allow millions of undocumented immigrants who have established roots in the United States, including parents and spouses of legal immigrants, to have a "pathway to legalization and to full social and economic integration into the United States."

General Convention also adopted resolutions addressing environmental issues, including climate change, global warming, economic and environmental justice, creation care and renewable energy.

Though the Congressional visits centered on the bishops' requests for universal, affordable, quality health care for all Americans; comprehensive immigration reform grounded in family unity; and support for the climate bill, the recent infusion of incivility the health care debate has inserted into politics and public discourse entered the discussion.

Democratic Senator Frank R. Lautenberg of New Jersey and Republican Senator Susan M. Collins of Maine both expressed concern over the recent incivility, misinformation and fear-based hyperbole characterizing the health care debate in their meetings with Newark Bishop Mark Beckwith and Maine Bishop Stephen Lane, respectively, the bishops said.

Arguments, shouting and the spread of misinformation have characterized town hall meetings nationwide and have proliferated online since the health care reform debate heated up over the summer. More recently Republican Senator Joe Wilson of South Carolina shouted "you lie" when President Barack Obama said during his September 9 address to Congress and the nation that illegal immigrants wouldn't be given access to coverage under the current plan for health care

reform. Wilson's outburst led former President Jimmy Carter to suggest September 15 that some of the protests against and opposition to Obama are rooted in racism.

Racism and Carter's suggestion were part of the discussion during a meeting between Democratic Senator Benjamin L. Cardin of Maryland and Maryland Bishop Eugene T. Sutton and Washington Bishop John Chane. Sutton reminded Cardin, who is Jewish, that he sent a Muslim staff member to represent him at a celebration commemorating the 325th anniversary of Diocese of Maryland's oldest church, Sutton said.

"We were celebrating the fact that a Jewish senator sent a Muslim to worship at our Christian celebration," he said. "And that's what Maryland is all about."

In his Sept. 16 homily given at the Simpson Memorial Chapel in the United Methodist Building across from Capitol Hill, Beckwith reminded those present that Jesus learned early on how the world worked and spent his life trying to level the playing field, "making the inequity less so."

Rochester Bishop Prince Singh reminded officials from the state of New York that he too is elected and represents constituents, and that participation in the public square doesn't always come in the form of protest or angry calls and emails.

"Not beating people down to convince them of what we believe in is one of the important pieces of our spirituality," said Singh. "We work in soup kitchens; if there is a disaster, we organize a relief initiative ... we are doing the heavy lifting in local communities, tutoring in schools and working in the prison system, and in that way being involved in the public policy debate. We are not out at town hall meetings screaming.

"That is a different discourse that is not part of the town hall format; it is important for elected officials to get an impression that there are people who actually show up and be a part of the solution."

Singh participated in an interfaith prayer vigil to end the hateful rhetoric characterizing the immigration debate Sept. 15 on Capitol Hill – a photo of the faith leaders ran on the front page below the fold in the September 16 Washington Post.

One of the challenges that has revealed itself and that became even more apparent through the bishops' meetings with member of congress and their staffs is that even if health care reform passes, because of the negative atmosphere it has created both on the Hill and in communities nationwide, there will be reluctance to take up any kind of immigration reform, said Ana White, OGR's immigration and refugee policy analyst, who with

other OGR staff members accompanied the bishops on their Sept. 16 visits.

Immigration is an especially hot topic in California, where Bishop Marc Andrus, of the Diocese of California, has been involved at the local and state level. Andrus expressed his interest in immigration reform, citing the current policies' failure to address root causes, including poverty.

During a visit with Democratic Representative Anna G. Eschoo, Andrus was able to connect a priest in his diocese who is active in immigration issues with one of Eschoo's staff members who works on the same issues.

OGR, which organized and supported the bishops' meetings, was created by Executive Council in 1979. Its mandate is to lobby Congress and the president in response to legislation passed at General Convention.

"These were very good meetings. I am happy the Office of Government Relations could set these up," Sutton said. "Elected officials need to meet with religious leaders who are not intolerant and who don't abuse positions of power to shame, demean or demand."

The Sept. 16 meetings were just a start, said Mary Getz, OGR's grassroots coordinator.

"What the bishops were doing here was starting and building relationships," she said. "The bishops have plans to make follow up visits in the members' home districts."

The bishops also intended their trip to Washington, D.C. to inspire Episcopalians to get involved. The Episcopal Public Policy Network offers educational and technological resources to all Episcopalians interested in participating in public life.

"I've been encouraging people in my diocese to be involved in the public square," said Lane. "I plan to use this experience as an example and to get people out there in support of universal health care. The message will carry more weight now that I have done it."

-- *Lynette Wilson is staff writer, Episcopal Life Media.*

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.

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

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Good News in the Heart of the City since 1817!

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 3

10 am Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4—18th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

3 pm Interfaith Service for City's 175th Anniversary (TS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

Sunday, October 11—19th 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)

Sunday, October 18—Patronal Feast of St. Luke: All Church Sunday

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

Sunday, October 25—21st Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Meeting (TS)

Every Tuesday & Thursday

12:05 pm Eucharist in the Chapel

And Friday, October 23 (St. James of Jerusalem)

And Wednesday, October 29 (St. Simon & St. Jude)