

# The Word From Two Saints

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

**March 2010**  
*A House of Prayer for All People*

## From the Rector:

Dear Saints,

A colleague spoke to me the other day about a parishioner of hers who has left the parish for an evangelical church. This now former parishioner had become convinced that the Episcopal Church had become “hopelessly liberal.” My colleague said she had finally succumbed to the fairly constant evangelizing of a co-worker.

Nearly every Episcopal parish in the country has a story like this to tell, in most cases many of them. This “political exodus” has been happening since the mid-1960’s, when the leadership of the Church embraced the civil rights movement, and many of the rank and file of “the Republican party at prayer” (as the Episcopal Church was known in those days) were outraged.

That there is a distinctly political aspect to all this leave-taking is unfortunate. Is the Episcopal Church truly a “liberal” church? Only in caricature. Have we taken some stances that could be said to be liberal? Yes, of course. We’ve also taken a few that could be considered conservative. Mostly our stances are relatively moderate, if you must judge them on a political scale.

One answer to this state of affairs that I hear proposed from time to time is to “get politics out of the church.” Personally I think this is impossible. There’s too much in the Bible about justice. We worship a God who takes the side of the oppressed. That’s bound to get political.

What the Bible does not like that we could get rid of is ideology. Ideology is a form of idolatry, lifting up the opinion about something to a rigid, my-way-or-the-highway stance. Ideology elevates human opinion to the level of the divine. Everyone is capable of doing this—conservatives, moderates, liberals.

***The Word from Two Saints*** is a publication of:

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The Rev. Michael W. Hopkins, Rector

The Rev. John T. Burr, Parish Deacon

Politics and religion have always been uncomfortable bed fellows and that is how it should be. Of course, in this country we live with the legal separation of church and state. That does not mean, however, the separation of religion and politics. As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said (and countless have repeated including our own Bishop Barbara Harris), “My religion is my politics.”

If I regret anything from the last forty years of our Church’s history, it is that we haven’t been very good at talking about these things. We have not enabled ourselves to be persuasive of our point of view like the evangelical who eventually convinced one of our own to leave us.

Let’s get better at this! We have a legitimate tradition to offer the world, a real story to tell. This is, if anything, a justice church, about which we should have some holy pride.



## Holy Week Schedule

*All Services Eucharist Unless Otherwise Noted*

Mon. in Holy Week (3/29): 6 pm (TS)

Tues in Holy Week: 12:05 pm (TS), 6 pm (TS)

Wed in Holy Week: 6 pm (SS)

Maundy Thursday: 12:05 pm (TS), 6 pm (TS)

*6 pm with Agape Meal & Footwashing*

Good Friday: 12:05 pm (TS) Good Fri Liturgy

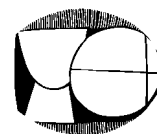
7 pm (SS): Tenebrae

Holy Saturday: 10 am (TS) Liturgy of the Day

8 pm (TS) Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Day: 8 am & 10 am

*Each with Egg Hunt following  
Parish Breakfast at 9 am*



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

Phone (585) 546-7730 Fax (585) 546-7733

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

The Rev. Mary Ann Brody, Priest-in-charge, St. Stephen’s Church

The Rev. Canon Denise Yarbrough, Priest Associate

### 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.

### High Tea for Haiti

Please join us for High Tea including scones, mock Devonshire cream and other goodies at a fundraiser to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti. There will be musical entertainment provided by St. Stephen's dynamic duo - the Lounge Lizards and a small silent auction.



All proceeds will support recovery efforts in Haiti through Episcopal Relief and Development.

The tea will take place on **Saturday March 6 from 3 – 5 pm** at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Suggested donation - \$20 (at the door). Reservations requested. Questions or reservations: Contact St. Stephen's Office, 328-0856 (please leave a message) or email [wendy@sullybrown.com](mailto:wendy@sullybrown.com).

### Interfaith Action Event

On **March 20** please join Interfaith Action to celebrate the work of a genuine community hero, "Ms. Audrey Smith inspires hope and health." The event will be held at the Diplomat Banquet Center & Hotel, 1 Diplomat Way (off Lyell Avenue), Rochester. For more information call 585-235-2590, ext. 14.

### The Great Vigil of Easter: A Personal Testimony

*By Michael Hopkins*

I first attended the Great Vigil of Easter somewhere around the year 1980, not long after I began attending an Episcopal Church. I have missed it maybe two or three times since then. I can honestly

say that it is at the heart of my spirituality. Who I am and what I believe as a Christian gets formed and pre-formed by this yearly experience. I am sometimes heard to say that it is the Episcopal Church's version of the "Annual Revival." I am not being facetious! That is my experience!

What is it about the Vigil that shapes my spirituality? Many things. Singing the songs of hope in the dark, as well as the strong image of light in the darkness that drives the liturgy. Hearing the stories of our ancestors, leading to the resurrection story helps me remember who I am, what my story is. And then there is the joy of the return of "Alleluia" and the proclamation of the risen Christ. Finally there is the whole sense of "passover" that the liturgy has. It really is the "Christian Passover."



In the liturgy we pass over from darkness to life from sorrow to joy and from death to life. I need the strength of this "passover" to see me through day to day, when I, like everyone else, contend against darkness and sorrow and death.

I urge you to give the Vigil a try if you have never been. It is liturgy in our tradition at its best and it has the power to change your life.

### Mrs. Winifred Primo Celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Mrs. Winifred Thompson Primo will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at a party in her honor on March 27 in Wilmington, Delaware. Her actual birth is March 28. Mrs. Primo is the widow of the Rt. Rev. Quintin Primo, who was the vicar, then rector of St. Simon's Church from 1947 to 1963. At the time of his retirement, he was the Bishop Suffragan of Chicago.

Two Saints will be sending a contribution to Episcopal and Relief and Development in thanksgiving for Mrs. Primo, and there will be a

card around for people to sign. We'll also pray for her on March 28.

### **A Lenten Prayer on Race**

*From Race and Prayer: Collected Voices, Many Dreams ed. Malcolm Boyd and Chester Talton. Written by the Rev. Petero A.N. Sabune.*

Oh, God of all Goodness,  
We have betrayed your call to us to be your children.

We have refused to see each other as brothers and sisters.

We pray that this Lenten season may be a time to prepare and receive you,

When you come to die and be resurrected in our lives, in our homes, in our hearts.

We pray in your name. Amen.

### **Vestry Organizes for the Year**

The members of Two Saints Vestry (including five new members) gathered on February 13 to begin their work for the coming year. Fittingly, it was Absalom Jones Day and we began with a Eucharist commemorating him.

Lorraine Morgan was elected Treasurer and Betty Seidel Assistant Treasurer. Sharon Nelson was re-elected Clerk. The Revs. John Burr, Denise Yarbrough and Mary Ann Brody were given seat and voice. We declared the Diocesan Safer Church Policy to be our policy and approved the annual Parochial Report.

We also spent some time evaluating the past year, answering the questions: What was the highlight of the last year in the parish for you? What was one thing that could have been better?

A reminder that monthly financial reports and minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

### **Looking Ahead Toward a Sabbatical for the Rector**

The Rector's Letter of Agreement with the Wardens and Vestry provides for a three-month sabbatical after the completion of every five years of service to the parish. Michael's fifth anniversary was last October, so it is time!

Sabbaticals are breaks from regular work for special study, travel and rest. People are used to college

professors getting them, but clergy have been getting them for a long time now. Three months every five years is the standard in our Diocese, as well as many others.

Sabbaticals do not have to be beneficial only for the person taking them. They can also be beneficial for the parish and its leadership. It is a good time to review and renew the commitment to shared leadership, evaluate job descriptions, and Letters of Agreement. Are we all operating on the same page?

In next month's newsletter I'll outline some logistics (who's going to do what?) and talk some about my goals for the sabbatical. In the meantime, if anyone has questions, please feel free to speak to me or one of the Wardens.

### **Lenten Series: Renewing Our Commitment to Justice in the City**

This year's Lenten Series is being held on four Thursdays: February 25, March 4, March 18, and March 25. The program is Evening Prayer at 5:30 pm, Pot-luck Supper at 6 pm, and program from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Come to one, two, or all three.

We will be hearing from speakers about the state of justice in the city of Rochester, who is working on these issues, and how we might be able to plug into the effort. There will be plenty of time for conversation with our guests. Here's the line-up:

February 25: Councilman Adam McFadden who represents the Southwest District on the City Council. Adam is a long-time community activist and no stranger to Two Saints as he was employed as a junior counselor for Right On School "back in the day."

March 4: Paul Brayer of the Interfaith Alliance of Rochester will present their updated version of the CD "Faces of Poverty," and leading a discussion on the state of poverty in the city.

March 18: Jess Lenny, the President of Metro Justice will be with us to talk about the issues that his organization is currently working on. Metro Justice has a long history of justice activism in the city, stretching back to the FIGHT years. This conversation will be partly but not wholly about Mayoral control of schools.

March 25: John Curran of the Plymouth Exchange Neighborhood Association will take about

development of the southwest, especially the area along the Genesee River.

### **What the Bible Says—And Doesn't Say—about Homosexuality**

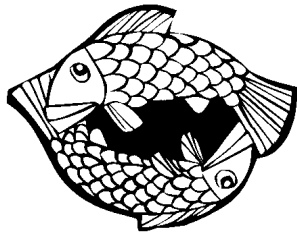
Two Saints is one of the sponsor congregations for a talk to be given by Dr. Darrell Lance at St. Paul's Church on Sunday, March 14 at 5 pm. The talk will be preceded by Evensong at St. Paul's.

Darrell Lance has written and spoken widely on the subject of Homosexuality and the Bible. He is Professor Emeritus of Old Testament Interpretation at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. He will help us become more articulate about this pressing issue in the church's life.

This event is a precursor to the visit of Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire to Rochester on Thursday, April 29. That event will be held at Two Saints. There will be Evensong at 7 pm at which Bishop Robinson will preach, followed by a question and answer period with him. Bishop Singh will be with us as well that night.

### **Don't Forget: Men's Fish Fry**

The annual Men's Fish Fry is Friday, March 12 this year. Serving will be from 11 am to 6:30 pm. The menu is Haddock, Macaroni Salad, Collard Greens, Corn Bread, and Cake. You can dine in or call (546-7730) for pick up or



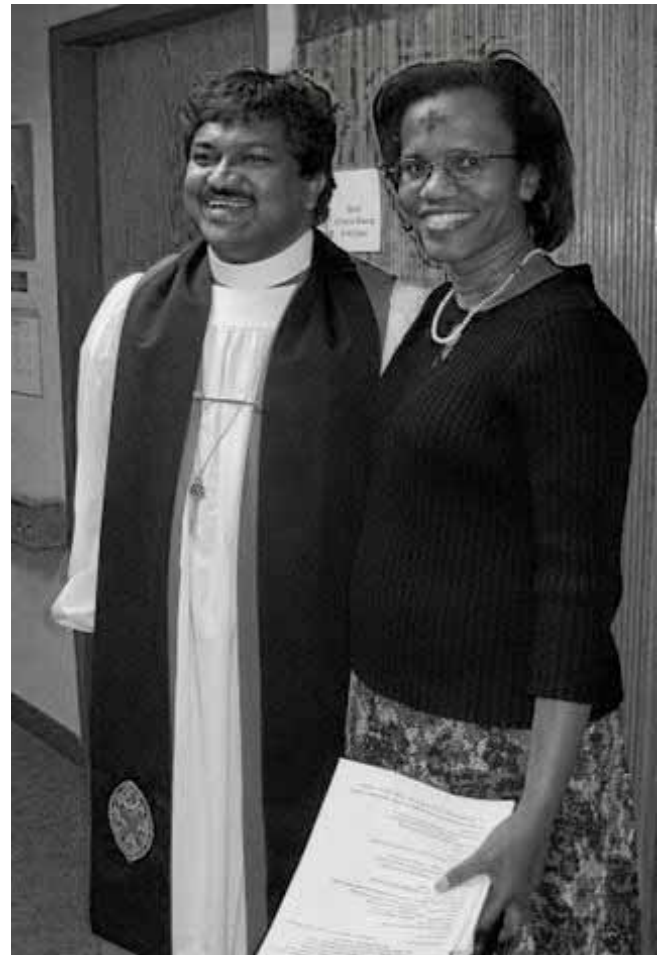
delivery (use the church number). There is a minimum of five meals for delivery. Dinners are \$9 a piece.

Help is needed on the day of the Fish Fry, as well as the evening before. If you can help, please get a hold of Jack Cummings 232-5643 or [jackcummins@juno.com](mailto:jackcummins@juno.com).

### **Rochelle Coley Confirmed**

Newly elected Warden Rochelle Coley was confirmed on Ash Wednesday at the Episcopal Church Home where Bishop Singh was making his annual visitation. Several Two Sainters were present, including Rochelle's lay sponsor, Betty Seidel. Many thanks are owed the Rev. Dennis

Wienk, Church Home Chaplain and the folks at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd for their hospitality.



*Bishop Singh and Rochelle Coley*



*Rochelle with John Harmon*

### **Thanks be to God!**

Every month we want to highlight a ministry and give thanks to those involved. This month let us give thanks for our Weekday Ambassadors. Our Weekday Ambassadors are John Burr, Sylvia Kannapel, Jacquelyn Hopkins, Dawn Moore, Toni

Burr, Burnetta McCullough, Carter Williams, Cecille Chester and Pat Cloonan. Thanks be to God for their ministry!

The Weekday Ambassadors enable us to keep the doors to the church (or chapel) open in the middle of the day (10 am—2 pm) Tuesday through Friday. People come in for all reasons—to get a cup of coffee and a warm place to be for a few minutes, to say a quiet prayer, to see our historic building or to search our help from a member of the clergy. This is an important ministry! You can't imagine how many times we have heard, "Thank God somebody keeps their doors open!" Thank God we are able to because of the commitment of the above individuals.

### **Community Garden & Seed Starts**

A group met to talk about starting a community garden at the corner of Troup St. and Jefferson Ave. All things look good! We'll be collecting information and figuring out what we need in terms of supplies in the next few weeks. We hope to be ready to get started May 1. If you are a seed starter and would like to buy a few extra seeds and start them for the community garden, let Lorraine Morgan know what you plan to grow! We'll be growing flowers as well as vegetables.

### **CROPWalk coming – Save the Date**

We are organizing an urban CROPWalk in the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward area to raise awareness about local hunger issues and to raise money to fight hunger in the city and beyond. The walk will be approximately three miles. Pledge packets for walkers will be coming in April. For now ... mark May 2<sup>nd</sup> on your calendar so you won't miss the walk!

### **Believe Out Loud**

Church should be a place of belonging and inclusion, a place to practice Jesus' teaching to "love thy neighbor as thyself." February 14th was the public launch of *Believe Out Loud*--a transdenominational campaign about making faith communities welcoming to all people--including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender folk. It's not enough for us to believe in inclusion; we must Believe Out Loud. Integrity USA is promoting *Believe Out Loud* in The Episcopal Church. St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene is proud to be *Believe Out Loud Episcopal Church*.

## **Holy Week Schedule**

### Palm Sunday (March 28)

8 am Blessing of Palms & Eucharist  
10 am Palm Procession & Sung Eucharist

### Monday in Holy Week

6 pm Eucharist at Two Saints

### Tuesday in Holy Week

12:05 pm Eucharist at Two Saints  
6 pm Eucharist at St. Stephen's

### Wednesday in Holy Week

6 pm Eucharist at Two Saints

### Maundy Thursday

12:05 pm Eucharist at Two Saints  
6 pm Agape Meal, Footwashing & Eucharist  
at Two Saints

### Good Friday

12:05 pm Good Friday Liturgy of the Day  
at Two Saints  
7 pm Tenebrae at St. Stephen's

### Holy Saturday

10 am Liturgy of the Day at Two Saints  
8 pm the Great Vigil of Easter at Two Saints

### Easter Day

8 am & 10 am Sung Eucharist  
Easter Egg Hunt follows both Services  
Parish Breakfast at 9 am

## **Help Needed for Fish Fry**

Help is needed on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> for prepping and set-up. Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup> we need a *minimum of 10 volunteers* to bake, cut and wrap cakes, heat the greens, fry fish, make beverages and prepare large take out orders. From 11 am-2 pm we will need an "ARMY" to serve, prepare orders and make deliveries. From 2 pm until closing, help is needed to serve the dinner patrons and clean up. Saturday we clean up. There is a signup sheet in the Parish Hall and at the back of the church. Please help out and distribute flyers!

## **Organ Concert**

On Friday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m., Two Saints will host an EROI Community Organ Concert, featuring Eastman students Kristen Cho, Annie Laver, and Jonathan Wessler. A freewill offering will benefit the student travel fund for a department trip in 2011.

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## MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, March 7—3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

8 am Eucharist (TS)  
10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)  
10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)  
5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

### **Sunday, March 14—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent—Mothering Sunday—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)

### **Sunday, March 21—5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

8 am Eucharist (TS)  
10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)  
10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)  
5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (Chapel) (TS)

### **Sunday, March 28—The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday**

8 am Eucharist with Blessing of Palms(TS)  
10 am Procession, Blessing of Palms & Sung Eucharist (TS)  
10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)  
5 pm Dignity-Integrity Meeting (TS)

### **March 29, 30, 31**

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in Holy Week**  
Mon: 6 pm (TS), Tues: 12:05 pm (TS), 6 pm (TS), Wed: 6 pm (SS)

*Every Tuesday & Thursday  
12:05 pm Eucharist in the Chapel  
And Friday, March 19, St. Joseph's Day  
& Thursday, March 25, The Annunciation*