

THE WORD FROM TWO SAINTS

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

April 2009
A House of Prayer for All People

From the Rector:

Dear Saints,

It's time for our annual revival—Episcopal style. That would be the Services of Holy Week, culminating with Easter Day.

Holy Week is a rich tapestry of prayer and praise that celebrates the basic message of our faith: Christ has died! Christ is Risen! The “Great Three Days” (or “the Paschal Triduum”) are the Christian Passover when we remember Christ's passage through death to life.

Each Service has its uniqueness. We begin with Palm Sunday (this year celebrated with our Bishop!). Palm Sunday starts on a high note with the shout of “Hosanna!” and the waving of palms. Then quickly, however, we read the story of Jesus Passion and our hosanna turns to “Crucify him!” The Service ends on a somewhat somber note, setting us up for the rest of the week.

Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are quiet Services where we remember some of the events leading up to Jesus' passion and hear the Servant Songs from the prophet Isaiah.

Maundy Thursday is the day we celebrate the gift of the Eucharist “on the night before he died for us.” We begin with a simple but festive meal, much as the earliest Christians would have gathered. It's called an “Agapé Meal” or “Love Feast.” Our Service includes the washing of feet, imitating Jesus as the story is told in John's Gospel. At the end of Service, after much joy, we prepare for Good Friday by stripping the sanctuary of all adornment while we sing Psalm 22. The Service that began with the usual chatter around a table ends in silence.

Good Friday is the most solemn day of the Christian Year. Not, however, solemn as in sad. There is a quiet joy to Good Friday, because we know we are celebrating the mystery of our redemption, our liberation in Christ's death from all that binds us. The Service begins quietly, including the reading of the Passion from the Gospel of John. We then pray for the world and all its people, lifting them before the cross. There is then a time of sheer praise—the veneration of the cross. We close by receiving the sacrament reserved from the previous day, as a sign that we “do not sorrow as others do without hope.

Holy Saturday's morning Service is a simple and quiet Liturgy of the Word, reflecting on Jesus' stay in the tomb. In the evening our Easter celebration begins with the Great Vigil of Easter, the very heart of the Christian Year, the “mother of all services.” We begin in darkness and light the paschal candle from a new fire. We hear the stories of God's people through time, renew our baptismal vows, ring in the Easter Proclamation and celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter.

Easter Day is pure joy, with all the stops pulled out. It's our most festive day of the year as we celebrate the miracle of the resurrection and the promise it holds for each one of us.

Let us celebrate these great events together—may there indeed be a revival!

Michael



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The Rev. Mary Ann Brody, Assistant Rector

Lenten Service in Sunday School

Our children's Sunday school class has been collecting empty bottles and cans to raise money for a local program that serves people in Rochester. Many in the parish have contributed their bottles and cans already, but keep them coming! If you haven't dropped any off, consider doing so! CLEAN cans and bottles are greatly appreciated. There's still time. Look for the can in the back of the church as you enter. We'll be collecting through Palm Sunday. To date we have collected \$11.25 from 205 returnables.

An Easter Faith Journey

Via Media is our introduction to the Christian Faith as lived out in our Anglican tradition. The "Via Media" (Latin for "the middle way") is a nickname for our tradition, first coined by Elizabeth I. It will be held on Tuesday evenings beginning April 21 through May 19, with a retreat day to close on Saturday, May 23. The Tuesday evening sessions are at 6 pm, including supper, and the Saturday session is 10 am to 2 pm, including lunch.



Via Media sessions begin with supper and conversations, followed by the viewing of a DVD in which a small

group of Episcopalians talk about a topic (God, for instance), followed by our own small group discussion. Look for the sign-up sheet in the back of the church for this program. All are encouraged to attend a *Via Media* at some time whether they are new to parish or not. It provides a common base of faith understanding and language. Here is what some have said about their experience with *Via Media*:

"I came into *Via Media* expecting to learn more about what Episcopalians believe. Instead of giving me answers, the program raised instead a series of questions about my own beliefs and values. Each week, I found myself looking forward to a gentle yet thought-provoking conversation about the Episcopalian community. It's hard to say which I enjoyed more: the challenge of articulating my beliefs or learning about the experiences of my new friends from St. Luke's and St. Simons." *Juliet Sullivan*

"Via Media was my first opportunity as a newcomer to Two Saints to really connect with the community in a small-group setting. I made good friends in this group, and found the conversations to be terrific. I'll miss the regular meetings. As Michael and Mary Ann have said, God creates a hunger in us for community. Certainly the *Via Media* curriculum, the conversations, and the communal meals helped satisfy that craving. I'm looking forward to more ways to participate in the life of the Two Saints Community." *Pat Wheelhouse*

Our Youth Rock!

Once again we will be heading off to *Rock the Church* at St. Matthias in East Rochester on the third Friday of the month (April 17) for some social time with other teens in our diocese. The evening runs from 7-9:00 pm. In April, we hope to have a live band, to go along with pool, ping pong, dancing and munchies! Youth in grades 7-12 are eligible to attend. Permission forms are required. If you would like to attend please contact Mary Ann Brody (546-7730).

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*.

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's).
Summary by Burnetta McCullough

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.

Girl Scouts Beyond Bars Needs You

The following positions are ongoing. Volunteers will be required to fill out volunteer applications, register as Girl Scouts and undergo a background check.

- ➔ We need two pairs of volunteers to transport 4 girls to meetings. Each pair must have at least one female adult. Girls are picked up at their homes between 5:15 and 5:45 and driven to the church two Thursdays a month.
- ➔ We need volunteers to prepare or pick up healthy meals for Thursday meetings twice a month, food must be at the church ready to eat by 6, expense will be reimbursed.
- ➔ We need volunteers to accompany the troop on field trips and work one on one with girls

within the group setting. Time commitment is flexible.

The following positions are short term commitments and do not required applications or Girl Scout registration.

- ➔ We need volunteers to share their knowledge of cameras and picture taking with the girls. Image manipulation on a computer is desirable. We'll supply digital cameras for the girls and laptop if needed. Two or three Thursday evenings, 1.5 hours at a time, dates to be decided.
- ➔ We need volunteers to teach the basics of scrapbooking at meetings. We'll supply the materials. Two Thursday evenings, 1.5 hours each. Dates to be decided.
- ➔ We need volunteers to teach fundamentals of sewing. Two Thursday evenings, 1.5 hours each. Dates to be decided.
- ➔ We need a back-up volunteer to make phone calls to girls re: meeting pick-up and transportation to confirm route.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Claudia at [585-239-7928](tel:585-239-7928) or claudia.gill@gswny.org, at Girl Scouts of Western New York, Rochester.

Upcoming ECW Invitation

By Nancy Andrus

Please come and join us at the next ECW presentation at St. Paul's Church on **Thursday, April 2nd**. There is no March speaker. Our special guest speaker will be Bishop Singh. 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. Next meeting:

May 7 Hurd Orchards: *Springtime at Hurd Orchards!*

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

A Glimpse into the Dining Experience at Episcopal SeniorLife Communities at River Edge Manor

"First impressions are lasting impressions," says Millie Johnston* a four year resident at River Edge Manor and a member of the Resident Food

Committee. The Food Committee consists of six residents who meet monthly to discuss and share feedback from residents on their dining experiences. Millie feels that Bill Ficarra, the Chef Manager, is eager to build relationships with everyone. She appreciates that he tries to accommodate everyone's taste buds! He finds a good balance of nutrition, flavor, and variety when creating his weekly menus. Most importantly, Millie enjoys the exceptional closeness with and teamwork among the dining staff. She says the best part of being at Episcopal SeniorLife Communities is being greeted with a warm hello and being called by name—it has a lasting impression.

Marcy Eckerson
Administrative Assistant
ESLC at River Edge Manor

*Millie has been a long-time member of St. Stephen's!

Scholarship Opportunity

AKOMA, the African American Women's Gospel Choir, is currently accepting applications for their annual Nona Patterson Chambers Scholarship for African American young ladies graduating from high school in June 2009. If interested, please contact your high school guidance counselor for an application, check with your church office, or call Mrs. Musette Castle at 385-1423. **All applications must be postmarked by May 2, 2009.**

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 175th anniversary celebration this year. If anyone is interested in working on this event, please contact Nancy in the Office as soon as possible.

Vestry Establishes Liaisons, Wrestles with Repairs

All active parishioners have been assigned a "vestry liaison," a contact person on the Vestry through whom you may share concerns and who may occasionally call you and ask how things are going. The major purpose of this program is for us to keep in better touch with one another. You should be

getting a call from your liaison soon to introduce him or herself.

Also at the March Vestry meeting several needed repairs have come to light which will strain this year's budget. Two computers have recently gone down, one of the ovens stopped working, a door hinge on one of the narthex doors needed to be repaired, the garbage disposal has broken, and the sound system continues to give us trouble. Your Vestry is wrestling with all these issues and trying to arrive at creative solutions.

The Great Fifty Days

Easter is not just a day, but fifty days of rejoicing in the resurrection. The time between Easter Day and Pentecost (50 days) is, in the words of some ancient commentators, "one long Sunday."

In the ancient church these days were the period of "mystagogia" for those who had been baptized at Easter. "Mystagogia" was teaching on the sacramental life of the Church. The wisdom of the early Church was that those entering the church experienced the sacraments (Baptism and Eucharist) before they learned about them. This tells us that it is our experience of the sacraments that is always primary. What we think about them is secondary.

There are several "mini" celebrations along the way during the Great Fifty Days:

"Doubting Thomas" Sunday: On the Second Sunday of Easter we always read the story of "doubting Thomas," the only Sunday of the year when the Gospel reading is unwaveringly the same. Obviously this is an important story for us! In many ways the story affirms doubt as a way station on the road to faith, while extolling it as the greatest of virtues.

Good Shepherd Sunday: The Fourth Sunday of Easter we always read a portion of chapter 10 of John's Gospel, where Jesus calls himself both "the gate for the sheep" and "the Good Shepherd." We also, of course, read that favorite of psalms, Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..."

Rogation Sunday: The Sixth Sunday of Easter is Rogation Sunday, sort of the Church's "Earth Day," when we give thanks for the goodness of the creation. We have a couple of traditions related to this Sunday at Two Saints. The sanctuary is

decorated with the fresh greening and flowering of spring. And at the end of the 10 am Service, we march to the river and "Bless the Genessee." The parish has always had a special connection with the river, the original name of St. Luke's being "St. Luke's Church, Genessee Falls."

Ascension Day is the 40th day of Easter, this year Thursday, May 21. Luke tells us in the Book of Acts that Jesus ascended into heaven forty days after the resurrection. We celebrate that he has taken our humanity with him to "the right hand of God."

The Day of Pentecost is the 50th day of Easter, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Luke tells us, again in Acts, that on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost (50 days after Passover), the disciples were gathered together and the Holy Spirit came upon them with a rush of wind and tongues of flame. This day is also sometimes called "Whitsunday" because it was a popular day for baptisms (the "whit" being the white robes worn by the newly baptized).

Let us give our all for the joy of the Great Fifty Days. Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



Christ our Light

The Word from Two Saints is a publication of:

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APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 5—Palm Sunday

8 am Eucharist with Bishop, Passion Gospel, Reception (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist with Bishop, Passion Gospel, Reception (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity Eucharist (TS)

Monday—Wednesday—April 6-8

12:05 pm Eucharist (TS)

6 pm Eucharist (Mon & Tues—TS; Wed—SS)

Thursday, April 9—Maundy Thursday

12:05 pm Eucharist (TS)

6 pm Sung Eucharist beginning with Agapé Meal (TS)

Friday, April 10—Good Friday

12:05 pm Service with Hymns (TS)

6 pm Sung Service (TS)

Saturday, April 11—Holy Saturday

10 am Service (TS)

7 pm The Great Vigil of Easter (Christ Church)

Sunday, April 12—Easter Day

8 am Eucharist with Hymns (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

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

Sunday, April 19/26—2nd/3rd Sunday of Easter

8 am Eucharist (TS)

10 am Sung Eucharist (TS)

10 am Eucharist with Music (SS)

5 pm Dignity-Integrity (TS)

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

Every Tuesday & Thursday,