

A PUBLICATION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY



tidings

80TH CONVENTION ISSUE

OCTOBER 2011

Convention news

Takin' it to the streets

God's beloved symbol

Around the diocese



from our bishop



The Rt. Rev. Bishop Prince G. Singh, Ph.D.
8th Bishop of Rochester

Beloved saints,

The elegant beauty of autumn is a perpetual gift to us in this part of God's vineyard. The seasonal changes are life-giving and characteristic of miracles. I once read a bumper sticker that said: "I don't believe in miracles, I depend on them!" We live in the context of discouraging realities that sometimes overwhelm us, but wonders and miracles also occur around us. I regularly hear of those who find newness and blessing in life when everything seems bleak. Miracles happen in the face of despair all the time. For every 9/11 like event there is also evidence of those who serve to save, heal, and restore during and after the horror. They serve as an embodiment of hope and of all that is good. You are endowed by God to be that embodiment.

From the cancerous cells that cause destruction and sap away life, to the cells that are continually formed new in our bodies, we are reminded of the juxtaposition of death and life every day. The mysteries of life far outweigh the aspects of life that cause us to panic or live in despair. As beloved children of God, we are faced with a choice. How will we live to the best of our ability? However long or short our opportunity to engage this amazing project called life, will we live it in a way that reflects the radiant kindness of God before we enter the portal of eternal life?

In the midst of famine, calamity, and darkness that are present in our world today, we are faced with the opportunity to differentiate ourselves as followers of Christ and embrace the miracles of life around us. Often, much of how we function has to do with replicating, most often subliminally, what our leaders do. This is why we scrutinize our leaders and want them to be people of character. However, character does

not merely embrace what is loudest, brightest, and safest while seeking company. In this day and age we are faced with a crisis of character. Jesus talked about character in terms of losers being winners, and called on those who lead to be a servant first.

As we commemorate our eightieth anniversary as a Diocese, we are grateful for the good leaders upon whose backs we stand. We continue to need good women and men to step up into leadership in our church and in our society. We continue to need such anointed people in our pews, in our pulpits, and in the marketplace. As you read this letter, I invite you to become conscious that, as a baptized child of God, God's Spirit is already in you, not just in some of you. You are the secret force field that is underutilized in the grand scheme of things. If you will trust this Spirit of life within you, you will be a part of the life-giving wonder this world needs.

As a Church, we can envision the day when we will open our doors in every way to welcome all as beloved children of God. We can envision taking the message that Jesus does heal and bring life to lifeless parts of people's lives. We can only realize this vision and live into the joy of that wonderful and miraculous reality when YOU step out and act as a child of God. Will you? Come, let us open our doors, let us take it to the streets, and let us share the Joy of Christ with someone we care about.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Prince G. Singh", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

God's

beloved symbol



Over the past few years, you have seen the God's Beloved symbol on different Diocesan communication pieces and most recently it is integrated into both our E-News, website design and, of course, *Tidings*. Moving forward, it will be implemented into all our communications as a **symbol of peace, welcome, inclusion, unity** and a reminder that we are all...*God's Beloved*.

The symbol evolved from the design and creation of Bishop Singh's vestments for his consecration as the VII Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester on May 31, 2008. The **circular shape of the overall image, having no beginning or end, represents infinity, eternity, and unity or wholeness. The white dove, in the center of the image, is a symbol of love, purity, welcome, peace and goodwill. Forever moving forward, the dove is a true symbol of the future.**

The background colors of the design are every bit as significant to the overall meaning. **The red, for example, reminds us of the Holy Spirit who is the paraclete or helper, enabling us along the way. Blue, closely associated with water, helps recall our identity at creation as children made in the image of God, with goodness as an essential aspect of our being.**

As you see this image increasingly in communications, please take a moment to reflect upon the meaning to which it is intended.

About us:

Tidings is published periodically throughout the year by the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, NY

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Address all inquiries to Communications@EpiscopalDioceseofRochester.org. Mail: 935 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14607. Fax: 585-473-5414.

To learn more about the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Rochester please visit us at www.episcopalrochester.org

Postmaster: Send changes of address to: **Tidings**, 935 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14607

80th annual convention

Friday, November 11, 2011

(Veterans Day)

- 10:00 - 1:00 PM Registration Hyatt Lobby
- 10:00 - 1:00 PM Good Book Store Wilmorite Room
- 11:30 - 1:00 PM Lunch available for purchase or brown bag
- 12:30 PM Street level Coffee, Beverages and Organize Parade
- 12:45 PM Parade begins | Delegates and guests will march from the Hyatt to St. Luke's and St. Simons
- 1:00 PM Press Conference
- 1:45 PM Worship - St. Luke & St. Simon
Preacher: The Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris
- 3:30 PM All return to the Hyatt
- 4:00 - 6:00 PM Good Book Store Wilmorite Room
- 4:00 - 6:00 PM Check-in & Late Registration
- 6:00 - 8:30 PM 80th Anniversary Reception — featuring music from the five districts, food stations and a cash bar. Bring your friends for some fun!

Saturday November 12, 2011

- 6:30 - 8:15 AM Breakfast
- 7:00 - 8:30 AM Registration (latecomers, alternates)
- 8:30 - 10:15 AM Nominations, Resolutions and First Business
- 10:15 - 10:45 AM Break
- 10:45 - 12:30 AM Second Business
- 12:30 - 1:30 PM Lunch
- 1:30 - 3:30 PM Third Business
- 4:00 PM Adjourn

Times are subject to change

agenda

So, why the changes

by The Rev. David Hefling, Chair, Convention Planning Committee

Surely by now you've noticed all the changes that are running through convention programming this year and you may be asking, "Why?" Well, there are several reasons. First, and probably most importantly, this year we're celebrating 80 years as the Diocese of Rochester. The planning committee members and the Bishop felt strongly that we hold up this significant milestone and celebrate not only our past, but our future, as we move forward together. In embracing both, this year's preacher and co-celebrant, The Right Reverend Barbara C. Harris, retired Suffragan Bishop of Massachusetts, seemed the logical (and exciting) choice to celebrate with us.

Other changes that have evolved through this year's planning process relate to accepting and promoting fiscal responsibility and becoming more inclusive of those for whom attending convention on a Friday is impossible. So this year we're "experimenting" with aspects of a one-day convention for the future. Can we really get all the business of the diocese done in one day? We'll see. And as you have probably realized, our two-day conventions are inordinately expensive – for the diocese, the parishes, delegates, and other attendees. We have all agreed that reining in costs for everyone should always be a priority, and we're working hard to make that happen, and for that priority to continue in the coming

keynote speaker



The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris, a native of Philadelphia, was **the first woman to be ordained to the episcopate in the worldwide Anglican Community**. She attended Villanova University and studied at the Urban Theology Unit in Sheffield, England. She is also a graduate of the Pennsylvania Foundation for Pastoral Counseling. She served as priest-in-charge of St. Augustine of Hippo Church in Norristown, Pennsylvania from 1980-1984. She also served as chaplain to the Philadelphia County prisons, and as counsel to industrial corporations for public policy issues and social concerns.

Bishop Harris has been active in professional and peace and justice organizations, as well as on national church boards and committees. A past president of the Episcopal Urban Caucus, she has represented the Episcopal Church on the board of the Prisoner Visitation and Support Committee and served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts for 20 years.

- Graduate of Charles Morris Price School of Advertising and Journalism
- Successful public relations specialist from 1949 to 1977 with Joseph V. Baker Associates Inc. and Sun Company
- Ordained to the diaconate in September 1979, and ordained a priest in 1980
- Named executive director of the Episcopal Church Publishing Company in 1984
- Elected suffragan (assisting) bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts in 1988
- Consecrated a bishop on February 11, 1989
- Holds honorary degrees from numerous colleges, universities and theological schools, including Yale University, the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and Seabury-Western Theological Seminary
- Received the Wisdom Award from the National Visionary Leadership Project, and was made an honorary fellow of Renison College of Waterloo University, Ontario in 2007

years. We've even looked at venues beyond downtown Rochester for future meetings, because geographic inclusivity has been one of our considerations as well.

We have centered our focus for the 2011 Convention on mission and ministry in the parishes. Toward that, we decided that exhibitors beyond the ministries in the districts would not be invited this year, but, valuing them as we do, we have made provisions for those exhibitors to be included in upcoming resource days and other lay/clergy events. We feel it's a better fit and a better use of resources.

So, while we've worked to make this convention a very special occasion, we've also tried to lay the groundwork for constructive and significant changes for future conventions. It's taken a lot of time and energy on the part of a lot of people, but we all agree, it's well worth it. We're anxious to hear your comments after you experience the 2011 Convention of the Diocese of Rochester.

See you there!



youth

convention: An opportunity for socializing, reflection, service and fun

by Keisha Stokes

Last year, over 60 diocesan youth gathered at the Hyatt for Youth at Convention 2010. We are hoping this year's event will prove to be just as fun, enlightening, and enriching.

Youth at Convention 2011: Taking it to the Streets will be an **overnight event** offering plenty of opportunities for youth to **socialize, reflect, and have fun**. The weekend will begin with the Convention Liturgy at St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene (Two Saints), where the youth will play an integral role in helping to lead the service music and hymns and also help with some parts of the liturgy. Following the liturgy, we will make our way to St. Paul's Church, to stay the remainder of the evening and overnight.

Friday night will include **games** and **time for reflection**, in addition to **dinner and snacks**. Saturday morning, the youth will separate into groups and Take it to the Streets by participating in different **service activities** throughout the Rochester community.

As a wrap-up, the group will reconvene at the Hyatt to share stories relating to the service projects and debrief about the entire experience. Convention 2011: Taking it to the Streets promises to be busy and exciting, we are looking forward to such an enriching event. **Look for registration information in late September.**

Last year, over 60 diocesan youth gathered at the Hyatt for Youth at Convention 2010. We are hoping this year's event will prove to be just as fun, enlightening, and enriching.



“Takin’ it to the

streets

by Eileen O’Connor Casey

In step with an ever-changing church, this convention’s Eucharist will look very different from years past. This year we will be—in the words of the Doobie Brothers—*taking it to the streets*. Everyone will gather at the Hyatt on Friday afternoon after registration and walk together to the historic church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene (Two Saints) for our Eucharist. This church, the oldest public building still in use in Rochester, is the ideal place for us to celebrate our long history as a diocese (and even longer history of mission in this area).

While we honor our past, we look with hope to the future. And while we pay tribute to the rich history of churches like Two Saints, the theme of “Taking it to the Streets” reminds us that ours is not a faith confined to buildings. The walk to Two Saints compels us—during convention

and beyond—to open the doors of our churches and our hearts and share the joy of our faith in public. This year we are called to reach beyond our parishes and homes in mission. We are called to tell the stories of our joy in Christ. We are called to deepen our connection with Christ by connecting with our neighbors.

As always, anyone is welcome and encouraged to join us for the Convention Eucharist. Participants in the convention as well as participants solely in the Eucharist are asked to gather at the Hyatt at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, November 11, 2011.

Transportation will be arranged for those physically unable to take part in the walk.

St. Lukes, Brockport.

Brenda Trembley, Director of Music, St. Lukes (left) had the privilege to spend a week at the René Clausen Choral School, Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. René Clausen (right) is an esteemed conductor and composer seen on WXXI-TV leading the Concordia Choir in a national Christmas special.



Watkins Glen. Prior to their entrance at St. James' Episcopal Church, The Right Reverend Prince Singh, Bishop of Rochester, (right) and The Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold III chat about the September 11th Memorial Service.

around



Tanganyika, Africa. (Above) The Rt. Rev. Bishop Prince G. Singh flanked by The Rev. George Chomolla, Vicar General (right), the Sub Dean of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, the Rev. Emmanuel Madinda (left), and clergy of the Cathedral in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika.

Spice Network. (Above) On August 27th the Spice network hosted its 3rd annual clergy family picnic at Ontario Beach Park. In this photo, Lilly Gandel—daughter of the Rev. Dahn Gandel and Dr. David Gandel—feeds the local seagulls. Visit <http://spice.episcopalrochester.org/> to learn more about the Spice network. Photo by David Williams.

Creation camp. (Left) Camp participants decorating stones to outline a path at Camp Koinonia. Throughout the week campers played games, took classes, and participated in service projects including: gardening, painting pathway stones, and writing note cards to go with school supplies donated to needy children in Yates County. “Connecting the Dots” was this year’s theme, and an afternoon was dedicated to various activities which explore the ways that all our lives help to “Connect the Dots.”

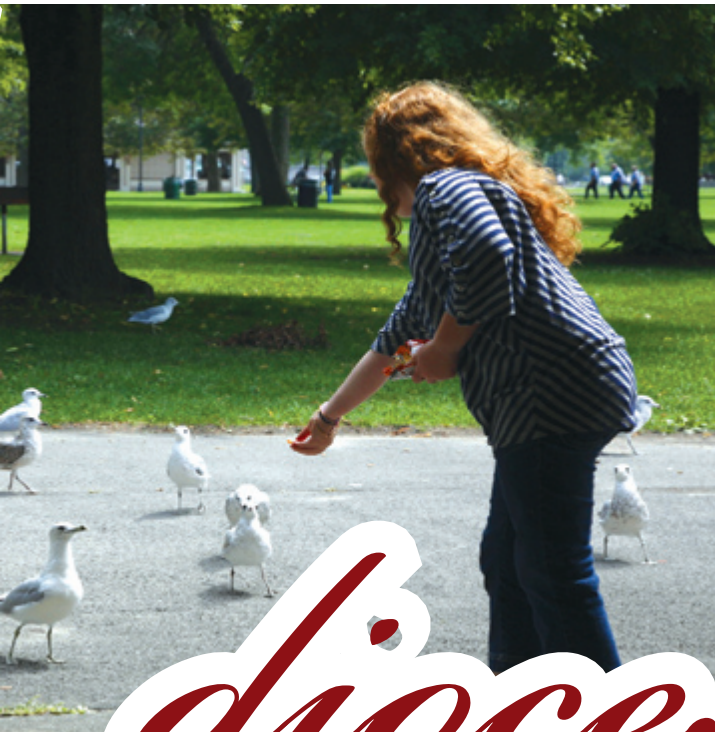




Watkins Glen. Rev. B.J. Premiah (far left), The Right Reverend Prince Singh, The Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold III, and Rev. Michael Hartney (far right) join together to honor and remember September 11th 2001 at St. James' Episcopal Church, in Watkins Glen, N.Y.



Seabreeze. (Above) Some daring members of the diocese had fun celebrating Episcopal Day at Seabreeze on June 26.



Gleaners Community Kitchen. (Left) Lou Bliss, garden founder, poses with the Rev. Richard Krapf, director of Gleaners Community Kitchen."

diocese



Labor of Love. (Left) The Reverend Michael Hartney, Episcopal Parishes of Schuyler County Priest, prepares for the Annual Back-to-School Giveaway, where the Schuyler County congregations help to give away school supplies and gently used school clothing to the neediest of children and families of Schuyler County (\$2500 raised this year). The group also provides food for the holidays, emergency repair money, pharmacy reimbursements, and other special financial needs that arise throughout the year. Late parishioner, Rosanne Paradiso, who began this effort, would be very proud!

MINISTRY FAIR
WORKSHOPS EUCHARIST



Opening Our Gifts

- **WHAT:** An Exploration and Celebration of Lay Ministry
- **WHEN:** Saturday, October 15, 2011, 9:30am to 3:30pm
- **WHERE:** St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Bath, NY
- **COST:** \$10 (\$15 after October 1) includes lunch
[Deadline for Ministry Fair displays Oct. 1 - details to come]

Unwrapping the Day

- **RECEIVING THE GIFT:** We begin with the Word that we are all gifted by God - sermon by The Hon. Byron Rushing.
- **DISCOVERING THE GIFT:** Our first workshop invites us to examine our own life's story as a means of learning our gifts.
- **FOCUSING OUR GIFTS:** Our second workshop invites us to consider how to use our gifts in the context of our own lives.
- **THANKING THE GIVER:** In the Great Thanksgiving, we celebrate Communion, thanking God for our gifts.
- **SHARING OUR GIFTS:** Renewed by your time together, we take our gifts into the world, sharing them with others.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
BYRON RUSHING

Registrations accepted online after September 1st
Go to www.episcopalrochester.org and click on the events page

Untying the ribbon— discovering the gifts lay people can bring to their churches

by Heather Hallberg Yanda

Since the first time I came to my church, stepping through its magnificent red doors was like walking into a hug. When I'm there, everyone teaches me how they see, hear, smell, touch, and taste all that defines God, and I have been told all the stories that created the church, person by person - stories that existed long before me and will continue long after me.

I have often wondered what I can do to hand this feeling to someone else: what gifts do I carry through those doors will show them what I feel? How can I show each person that we all have our own unique qualities, our own stories that must be known and celebrated, together, in God's name?

I've just learned about a great opportunity for lay people who would like to do more for their churches: the Rochester Episcopal Diocese has created an event called **"Opening Our Gifts,"** which will take place on **Saturday, October 15 at St. Thomas' Church, in Bath.**

The keynote speaker will be the Massachusetts representative, Byron Rushing—famous for fighting for equal rights, particularly marriage equality—who will discuss the powerful presence lay people can have. This event will include small group discussions and a ministry fair, where we will have the chance to tell our own stories and share in the details of others' stories. We will discover our gifts, and perhaps learn along the way that we don't need to be ordained as priests to make a difference in our churches: our gifts alone have ordained us for the lessons we are meant to teach.

