



The Bellringer

E-mail: august@bestweb.net Website: www.stacroton.org October 2007

Rector:
The Reverend Bradley C. Dyche
Priest Associate:
The Rev. Betsy Johns Roadman
Deacon:
The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church ♦ 6 Old Post Road North, Croton on Hudson, NY 10520 ♦ 914-271-3501

October 2007

2	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
3	Wednesday	Noon	First Wednesday Lunch - Holy Eucharist and lunch
6	Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Blessing of the Animals
		5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
7	<u>The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		10:00 a.m.	Children's Eucharist – Presentation by Heifer Int'l participants
		11:15 a.m.	Block 2 Sunday School Teacher Training
		11:30 a.m.	Ushers Meeting in Parish House
9	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
13	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
14	<u>The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Bishop E. Don Taylor's Visitation - Holy Eucharist II
15	Monday	7:30 p.m.	Outreach Committee Meeting in St. A's House
16	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
17	Wednesday	8:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
20	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
21	<u>The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I (followed by coffee hour)
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II – Stewardship presentation
		11:00 a.m.	Harry Chapin Fun Run – Outreach Project Sunday School
23	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
26	Friday	7 - 9 p.m.	PARISH HALLOWEEN PARTY in the Parish Hall
27	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II, Betsy Roadman Celebrating
28	<u>The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I, with Duncan Cleary Preaching
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II, with Duncan Cleary Preaching
		11:00 a.m.	Adult Education Class in St. A's House
30	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class

RE M I N D E R:

All Discernment Surveys are due in the Parish Office by Sunday, October 14th.
Thank you for your participation.

Stewardship 2008: The theme this year is *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* (Luke 12:34). Stewardship Committee Chair, Dana Garrett, will be sending a letter in early October to all members explaining this year's Stewardship campaign. On **October 21st**, Fr. Brad's sermon will deal with Stewardship themes and then on **October 28th**, Duncan Cleary will be our guest preacher. Commitment Sunday and Stewardship Brunch will be held on **November 11th**.

From the Rector, October 2007

Close your eyes and remember what life in the congregation was like two years ago! Alright, open them again. You do have to read this, and it might be difficult with your eyes closed. With your eyes open (in all senses), try and remember the time of the parish survey, circa 2005. I know that some of us were not here, but even if you were not, attempt to imagine what the parish might have been like. It was a time of great transition. David Carlson had just moved to the city. Betsy Roadman was here in a new capacity. Everyone was dreaming of and imagining what this parish could be, how a new Rector might participate and lead us in that process. I can only imagine that it must have been a time of great hope and great fear (What if we get the wrong person?).

Of course, I was not here. I am only imagining and piecing together bits of other people's memories and what life was like for me at the same time. But one of the reasons that I look back to that era is that.... Drum roll please! We are there again! We are in a place of discerning our future, thinking about who we want to be, and dreaming how our leadership might guide us there. We **GET TO BE** in a point of transition. I have heard many wise people say that our lives are like spiral staircases, that we keep coming around to the same views and points of life, but ideally, we are farther up and along in the journey. And I do believe that we here at St. A's are farther along than we were several years ago. But we are at the same point in the circle again. Luckily, like then, there is a group of good people that is very specifically charged with leading us through the process of discernment and imagining of what our parish can be. It is the Discernment Committee.

Over the past weekends, at church, Greg Kaebnick, Joe Kolanko, and I have talked about the first step in that process. We are going to ask you to participate in a new survey process. Right now, you should either have a survey in hand or will receive it in the mail shortly. In answering the survey, I ask that you take time to think and feel and pray your way through the answers. Look back to our shared history **AND envision our shared future**. The specific goal of the committee is to facilitate deciding how we can accommodate our current parishioners in our church building and how we might be able to welcome in more people to our flock. It is a lovely, wonderful, beautiful situation to face, but it is one that we want to

make with thought, care, discernment, and prayer. And we need your help. As one parishioner said after our first weekend back at Sunday School, with the pews overflowing and joy abounding: ***we have a lot of discerning to do!***

And we do! Even after the surveys, we will be seeking your input. As in the Rector search that resulted in *moi*, in October, we will begin a series of meetings and dinners to help us think through our possibilities. You probably know the two prevailing options: either we add more seating with a choir loft or enlarging the nave where the congregation sits AND/OR we create another service. There are many benefits and problems for all of our options, and we need your input in multiple ways so that the Vestry can make informed decisions.

Some of the things that came out of the last parish survey were a desire to focus on our Sunday School and outreach and community events. And we have focused on those things. We now participate in the Carpenter's Kids program in Tanzania, and we have continued to give a lot of thought and care to the Sunday School curriculum. We also have adult education programs led by our Deacon and a bookgroup assisted by me. And, fourteen of us have just returned from Heifer International's Overlook Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts. There, we learned about international outreach and what life is like in many developing nations. We cared for the animals that will be shared with people who are poor in our own country. And we can trace all of these events and trips back to the previous parish survey. It was a moment of definition for us and continues to be.

All of this is to say that in two years, I hope that we are seeing fulfillment of the goals that we are making for ourselves in this discernment process! No matter what we decide, or where we feel led, I do hope that we look back and feel that this process has brought us closer together and closer to the love of God. I continually thank God for being led here to this wonderful, caring community. I pray that we will work together to find where God is leading us together.

Peace





First Wednesday on October 3rd – We will meet at Noon for Holy Eucharist and then will share a meal and fellowship in the Parish Hall. Please RSVP the office (271-3501) by October 3rd.

Sunday School Notes:

First Children's Service: October 7th at the 10:00 a.m. service. There, some of the 14 people (Chris Rosenow, Loren Zack, Dana Garrett, Mary Ellen O'Neill, Meaghan Shawcross, Melissa Shawcross, Rebecca Kaebnick, Claire Leyden, Mary Kate Cleary, Alyssa Zack, Ben Eddolls, Zach Jackson, and Bennett Rosenow) who went to Heifer International's Overlook Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts will be telling the kids about Heifer International and what this amazing organization does for so many people around the world (they'll tell the adults too)!

Felt Helpers: Rachel Norfleet would like to acknowledge the following "angels" for their help in cutting out and putting together the felt pieces that are being used in the Sunday School classes. Thank you: Kathy Davidson, Caren Evans, Elizabeth Hoffman, Ange Mlinko, Carole Nelson, Ingrid Ross, Gail Wilson and Amber Wylie. If you are interested in helping out for this continuing project please contact Rachel Norfleet at norfleets@juno.com.

Reminder: Sunday, October 7th at 11:15 am Block Two teacher training in the Parish House.

Harry Chapin Memorial Run Against Hunger – Fun Run. On **Sunday, October 21st**, everyone in the parish is invited to join our Sunday School Classes for the Harry Chapin Fun Run, a short mile walk or run that raises money for charities that provide relief from hunger. It is an outreach project undertaken by the Sunday School program. Registration will be offered through the parish, and we will walk over to the site together after church on that day.

Blessing of the Animals:

Blessing of the Animals – Saturday, Oct 6th – 4:30 p.m – Bring your animals for a quick blessing by Father Brad in front of the church. This service honors St. Francis of Assisi and all who love creation.

Ushers:

Ushers Meeting: On **Sunday, October 7th**, right after the 10 am liturgy, those who are already Ushers and those who are interested in becoming Ushers are invited to a meeting in the parish house. This meeting

will provide information about Ushering for prospective ushers, and work out some finer points, namely coordinating with Sunday School, for existing Ushers. If you are interested, or have questions, please contact Brad in the parish office.

Bishop's Visit:

Student and Adult Confirmation Candidates: All candidates for confirmation, both students and adults, are expected to be at the 10:00 am service on **October 14th**, during the Bishop's visit. A pre-visit meeting with Father Brad is scheduled for **October 7th at 4:00 pm**. Please contact the Parish House if you are unable to make this meeting.

Stewardship Committee:

Stewardship Kickoff: The Stewardship Committee Chair, Dana Garrett, will be sending a letter in early October to all members explaining this year's Stewardship campaign. The theme this year is *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* (Luke 12:34) On **October 21st**, Fr. Brad's sermon will deal with Stewardship themes and then on **October 28th**, Duncan Cleary will be our guest preacher. Commitment Sunday and a Stewardship Brunch will be held on **November 11th**.

Adult Education: We hope you will all join Deacon Keith in four adult education offerings in 2007-2008. Sessions are right after the 10 AM service, in the Parish House.

The first offering will be an exploration of **Celtic Christianity** and the special expressions of spirituality associated with that unique culture, especially as it arose to Rome's attention when Christians in those damp and distant isles seemed not quite in sync with a rising orthodoxy.

The dates for this presentation will be **October 28** and **November 4**, the end of the season of Lughnasadh (the harvest) and the coming on of the season of Samhain (winter). These two Sundays span the date of All Saints Day, when, in the Celtic way of thinking, the veil between this world and the next might briefly part a bit, and a vision of what lies beyond might just be possible

Outreach Committee:

Walkathon Pledges: The Outreach Committee has been looking into "A-Home." A-Home is a nonprofit

supported by a coalition of Westchester churches and synagogues that rehabilitates housing and provides support to the elderly, the disabled, and single parent families. It currently has 13 properties located in residential areas around the county.

Kathy West will be walking in A-Home's fall walkathon October 14, and she'll be signing up pledges at the Sunday coffee hours.

You can learn more about the group at A-Home's website at www.a-homehousing.org.

Croton Caring Committee Luncheon: St A's is again hosting the next luncheon of the program year for the Croton Caring Committee on **Saturday, October 13th**. We are completely responsible for this event, planning the menu, purchasing the food, preparing and cooking the meal, setting up, serving, entertaining and cleaning up. For many of the elderly people who attend, it is their social outing for the month. Volunteers are needed to help coordinate and participate. We will be cooking on **Friday evening, October 12**, from 6 pm. until finished, and then from 10:30 a.m. on **Saturday the 13th**, there is set up, heating food, greeting guests, serving lunch, chatting with attendees and cleaning up. Volunteers are also needed for baking brownies for dessert (if you do not have time to participate in any other way). Please consider signing up for some time during this fun event. For more information, call Cathie Elliott 271 - 9522.

Father Brad's Presentation:

Faith, Peace, and Israel: On **Friday, October 19th**, at Temple Israel here in Croton, Brad will be discussing the intersection of a recent trip to Israel and the West Bank and the Christian faith. During this trip, he and other Christian and Jewish Clergy examined the peace process and its complexities. Hear his thoughts and share your own as we join in an interreligious dialogue and continue the search for a way forward. Temple Israel has invited members of our congregation to attend their short Sabbath service at 6:30, followed by a dinner at 7:15. (Brad will speak after the dinner at 8:00 pm or so). If you wish to attend the dinner, please call or e-mail the Temple Office at 271-4705, ext. 21 or tinw@optonline.net.

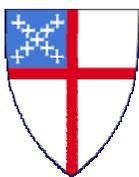
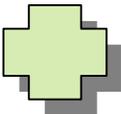


Financial Operations through August 31, 2007:			
	<i>Expenses</i>		<i>Revenues</i>
	<i>Paid</i>		<i>Received</i>
Administrative	\$ (32,194.52)		
Priest	\$ (55,470.93)	Fundraising	\$ 24,600.53
Service/Program	\$ (14,392.63)	Plate	\$ 16,087.81
Diocese	\$ (14,529.00)	Pledge	\$ 81,625.00
Outreach	\$ (3,964.28)	Space	\$ 3,160.00
Property	\$ (18,656.44)	Investments	\$ 6,076.72
TOTAL	\$ (139,207.80)	TOTAL	\$ 131,550.06
(deficit)/surplus	\$ (7,657.74)		
budgeted deficit	\$ (1,370.59)		

Treasurer's Report: The Church's financial operations, although healthy, have deteriorated somewhat since my last report, which is not unusual given the reduced church attendance during the summer months. Expenses were generally lower than expectations. Administrative expense has come in lower than expected as we were without a Parish Administrator during July and August. Property expenses came in lower than expected due to the relatively mild winter and a reduction in our sewer taxes. Priest also came in lower, since we had budgeted for a full year for an Assistant Priest, rather than the actual of eight months. Outreach was close to budget after the expenditure of monies to organizations recommended by the Outreach Committee (\$2,600 during July, and funded from a portion of JuneFest revenues). Program expenses were higher than the budget, due mostly to added investment in our Sunday School program. The reason for the significant increase in our deficit is the lag in revenues during the last two months, especially pledges. JuneFest raised \$20,988 (remarkably close to the \$21,000 in the budget). Space Use continues to fall below expectations, with revenues 45% lower than budgeted. Current Year Pledges were budgeted at \$95,000 for the end of August. Of that amount, only \$80,000 has actually been received, leaving a \$15,000 shortfall in pledge revenues. Although expenses were generally lower than expected, they were not low enough to make up for this revenue shortfall, resulting in an actual deficit of (\$7,658) versus the budgeted deficit of (\$1,371). Hopefully, as attendance picks up with the start of a new Sunday

School year, Current Year Pledges will also recover to their expected levels, eliminating the larger than expected operating deficit.

Phelps Memorial Hospital Center announces its Chaplain Training Program. The program is designed to prepare lay or ordained volunteers to minister to patients and visitors in the Hospital. In a supervised setting, with peer support, the chaplains-in-training will learn about hospital care, about themselves as pastors, and with study and practice, about the theology and skills of pastoral care in an interfaith setting. For more information about the program, please contact the parish office.



The Episcopal Shield

Several crosses appear on the shield. The large, red cross that divides the shield is a cross of St. George, the cross of the Church of England, and it represents our ties with our mother church.

There are nine small crosses in the upper left quadrant arranged in a St. Andrew's cross, the cross of the Church of Scotland. When no Anglican bishop would ordain a bishop for the fledgling Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA, bishops of the Church of Scotland agreed to lay hands on Samuel Seabury, ordaining him the first bishop of the ECUSA. This cross honors the part the Church of Scotland played in the birth of our church.

Each of the nine small crosses that comprise the St. Andrew's cross represents one of the nine dioceses that in 1789 founded the ECUSA.

The shield's layout, which is reminiscent of the American flag (the founding fathers of the ECUSA were also the founding fathers of our country), and its red, white, and blue motif signify that the ECUSA is the American representative to the Anglican Communion. The colors each have a symbolic meaning: Red is for the blood Christ shed for us and for the lives of the martyrs of our faith; White is the color of purity; Blue is the traditional color of the Virgin Mary, the mother of the Son of Man.

Are you a Babysitter? All parishioners age 12 or older who are interested in babysitting during Sunday 10 a.m. service should contact Jane Bernz (962-2499 or mykids249@aol.com) to be added to our babysitter

list. Babysitters will be scheduled as pairs for each Sunday, so if you would like to have a permanent partner please let Jane know. Each babysitter is paid \$10 per service.

Book Group/Bible Study Notes:

On **September 23rd**, a group of St. A's parishioners met to form a St. A's bookgroup and Bible Study. Ideally, this group meets on a regular basis to discuss some mutually agreed upon book and to study the next week's Biblical Readings. We will meet on Sundays right after church.

At our first meeting, it was decided that we would read *The Color of Water: a Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother* by James McBride. And our first meeting will be on **Sunday, November 18th** at about 11:15 am (after the 10:00 am service in the Parish House). Hopefully, you can join us.

Phyllis Cobb has agreed to lead the first gathering, with help, and we will also look at the following Sunday's Biblical Readings. If you would like to join us, please feel free. Simply read the book and show up! If you have any questions or would like to be added to the Book Group e-mail list, please call Kim in the parish office.

Saturday Eucharistic Ministers: We are in the process of creating the EM schedule for Nov 2007 to March 2008. If you are interested in being listed as a EM for the Saturday 5:00 pm service please contact the Parish Office.

NOVEMBER LOOK AHEAD

Adult Education Continues

Sunday, 4th, 11 am -12 pm

EFM Meetings

Tuesdays, 6th, 13th, 27th, 7 pm - 9 pm

Commitment Sunday Brunch

Sunday, 11th, 12 pm

Fundraiser with Wondrous Things and

Book Group / Bible Study

Sunday, 18th, 11:15 am

Vestry meeting

Wednesday, 28th, 7:45 pm - 11:45 pm

PARISH HALLOWEEN PARTY
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 7 - 9 P.M.

Costume Contest

Prizes

Games

Arts and Crafts

Food

Come one, come all. Volunteers needed: set up, games, food, cleanup. Please call Kristi and Ed Godek: 271-0843.

ALL TREATS! NO TRICKS!



<u>Rector</u>	<u>The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche</u>				
<u>Rector Emeritus</u>	<u>The Rev. David B. Wayne</u>				
<u>Priest Associate</u>	<u>The Rev. Betsy Johns Roadman</u>				
<u>Deacon</u>	<u>The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna</u>				
<u>2007 VESTRY MEMBERS</u>					
Senior Warden:	<u>Duncan Cleary</u>	Junior Warden:	<u>Dana Garrett</u>		
Treasurer:	<u>Holly Anzani</u>	Clerk:	<u>Chris Moore</u>		
Asst Treasure:	<u>Suzanne Smith</u>				
<u>Class of 2007</u>	Jeff Lawton	<u>Class of</u>	Laura Seitz	<u>Class of</u>	Holly Anzani
	Louise Levey	<u>2008</u>	Suzanne Smith	<u>2009</u>	Ed Godek
	Chris Moore		Loren Zack		Greg Kaebnick
<u>Meeting Schedule:</u> Vestry, 3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.					

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6 Old Post Road, North
Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520
www.stacroton.org

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