



The Bellringer

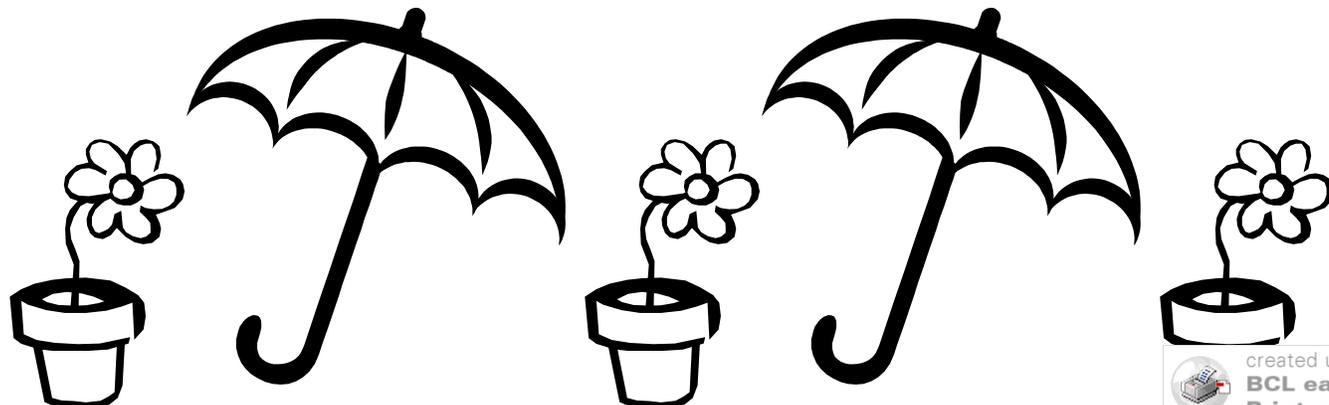
E-mail: august@bestweb.net Website: www.stacroton.org April 2008

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

April 2008

5	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
6	<u>The Second Sunday after Easter</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		10:00 a.m.	Children's Eucharist (no Sunday School)
7	Monday	7:30 p.m.	Outreach Committee Meeting
		7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
9	Wednesday	12:00 p.m.	First Wednesday
12	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II, The Rev Betsy Roadman Preaching
13	<u>The Second Sunday of Easter</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I, The Rev Betsy Roadman Preaching
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II, The Rev Betsy Roadman Preaching
15	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
16	Wednesday	8:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
19	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
20	<u>The Third Sunday of Easter</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II, with Discernment Committee presentation at coffee hour
		11:15 a.m.	Fundraising Committee Meeting in the Parish House
26	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II, The Rev Deacon Keith McKenna Preaching
27	<u>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I, The Rev Deacon Keith McKenna Preaching
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II, The Rev Deacon Keith McKenna Preaching, with Discernment Committee presentation at coffee hour
29	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class



April, 2008, From the Rector

Years ago, a friend of a friend coined the phrase, *Alleluia anyway!* This person would say *Alleluia anyway!*, to whatever life brought. Whether it was a good year or a bad one, whether Easter was joyful or sad, no matter what... she would say *Alleluia anyway!* I tend to agree. We should thank God for life in God, for the love of God, and trust that even if it is an "Alleluia anyway" year.

Unfortunately, as many of you know, I have had an *Alleluia anyway!* year... thus far. For reasons which must remain private, Robert and I separated several months ago. This was announced to the Vestry at the time. In that announcement, I said that the separation was hopefully temporary and that I would at some point publicly announce the results of our time apart. I can now say that our separation was not temporary. Robert and I are no longer together, and he will no longer be participating in the life of this parish. It is a sad event.

I want to say thank you to those who have been so kind to me during this difficult time. One of the things that I can say *Alleluia anyway* about is the care given to me at this parish. Everyone has so carefully balanced an urge to reach out in care with an understanding of my desire for privacy. A simple "I'm so sorry," and a prayer from so many has done a world of wonder (so has chocolate). Many of you have also shared your own stories of relationships as well. It is comforting to know that I am not alone, and it is reassuring that you understand that priests are humans first and foremost (and that life does not always go according to plans).

The rest of this page is left blank, intentionally so. I leave it blank because I realize that in our lives, it is God who helps us heal and who brings us back to life after a death. It is God who helps us say *Alleluia anyway*, in the midst of anything. It is God who makes resurrection possible. This blank space symbolizes the space we need to make in our lives for God's healing, resurrecting love. It is a space we need in our lives and in our communal life together.

Happy Easter, God Bless, and **Alleluia, Anyway!**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley" with a small cross at the end.

Bradley

Fundraising Committee Notes

The committee met on March 9th and concluded that for 2008 there should be two main fundraisers. They are looking into a 5K race at JuneFest and a dinner dance. If anyone knows of a location with a large room and kitchen that won't cost a fortune to rent please contact the office or Suzanne Smith. The next meeting of the fundraising committee is **Sunday, April 20th** after the 10:00 am service.

Preaching Series in April: *What we do and why we do it.*

In an effort to explore what we do and why we do it, for the four Sundays in April, we are offering a preaching series on parts of the liturgy.

On **April 6th**, at the Children's Service and all services, The Rev. Bradley Dyche will help explore why we do liturgy and worship at all.

On **April 13th**, The Rev. Betsy Johns Roadman will preach on the Prayers of the People

On **April 20th**, The Rev. Bradley Dyche will preach on the Nicene Creed and the Holy Eucharist

On **April 27th**, The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna will preach on the Dismissal

And on **May 17th and 18th**, all services will be Instructed Eucharists.

Carpenter's Kids Pledges

We are in the process of compiling St A's 2008 offering to Carpenter's Kids. Pledges for 2008 are due. If you have not yet returned this year's payment, a letter will be included with your first quarter Contribution Report. Place your pledge in the offering plate with **Carpenter's Kids 2008** in the memo section of the check.

If you need to know the status of your pledge please contact the Parish Office.

Carpenter's Kids

You may still sponsor a child or give a one-time gift to this worthy cause. A commitment of \$50/child for 50 children for 5 years will "link" our parish with a local Tanzanian parish. This will enable us to communicate directly with the local coordinators, exchange pictures, thoughts and prayers. The donation will not only give 50 very needy children the opportunity of education, but will let them know they are loved. **You can also make a one time gift to Carpenter's Kids.** All monies collected go directly to Tanzania. Money from individuals outside of the 5 year commitment program will be used directly for the support of children or indirectly, such as for the Cow Fund, providing cows to linked parishes to improve nutrition for the Carpenter's Kids, or to compensate those who administer the program in Tanzania. Absolutely no New York costs are taken from your contributions!

I would like to support the Carpenter's Kids Program:

_____ by committing to sponsoring one child for 5 years at \$50 each year (a total of \$250 over 5 years).

_____ by giving a one time gift to the program.

Please make check out to: **St. Augustine's Church,**
Memo line: Carpenter's Kids

Name: _____

Address: _____

Envelope Number: _____

2008



Thank you



Thank you to all those who helped with Holy Week and Easter activities, especially the Sunday school students who filled the Easter Egg

Treasurer's Report:

Financial Operations (1/1/08-2/29/08):

	<u>Expenses</u>		<u>Revenues</u>
Administrative	\$ (6,717.05)		
Priest	\$ (16,581.30)	Fundraising	\$ 799.00
Service/Program	\$ (3,806.71)	Plate	\$ 1,182.54
Diocese	\$ (5,024.00)	Pledge	\$23,579.57
Outreach	\$ (100.00)	Space	\$ --
Property	\$ (6,095.63)	Investments	\$ 2,065.60
TOTAL	\$ (38,324.69)	TOTAL	\$27,626.71
(deficit)/surplus	\$ (10,697.98)		
Budgeted deficit	(5,825.71)		

Treasurer's Report through 2/29/08:

Although expenses are in line with expectations for the first two months of 2008, revenues are significantly behind expectations, resulting in a close to (\$10,700) operating deficit. We expected to run a deficit early in the year as many large bills usually arrive in January, such as the Diocesan Assessment, insurance premium, etc. However, the shortfall in revenues has resulted in a deficit 83% higher than contained in the budget. Major contributing factors to the size of this deficit are the revenues from the 'plate' as well as 'pledges', both of which are significantly behind budget.

First Wednesday:

Our gathering this month will be on **April 9th** (the second Wednesday). We will meet at noon in the church for Holy Eucharist, and then meet for lunch and fellowship. Please RSVP to the parish office by Tuesday, March 11, 271-3501.

Food Fest 2008

Our annual Food Fest fundraiser is a delicious way to help the church and help yourself. Parishioners commit to making a dinner or dessert, those items are raffled off, and the winners of the raffles purchase them for a set price. If you have a favorite recipe and would like to offer a dinner or dessert, please contact Anya Steger at (736-9422) or

anysteger@earthlink.net OR Regina Hertl at rh@bestweb.net or 271-1348. A complete list of items for purchase and instructions about how can participate will be put in the back of the church and on our website (www.stacroton.org) in the coming weeks.

Heifer Int'l Trip 2008

High School and Middle School Students: Save the dates of Columbus Day Weekend. You are invited to go to Heifer International's Overlook Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts. While there, we will be participating in an amazing outreach project. Heifer International is a program that provides working animals for many developing countries. Many youth groups go there to help work on the farm and care for the animals and at the same time learn about world hunger. Over the course of the weekend, we will be helping out around the farm and learning what we can do to help eradicate poverty. This adventure promises to be both a great deal of fun and an amazing learning experience. We will leave on Saturday, October 11th and be back on Monday, October 13th, (Columbus Day) We will also need parents willing to participate. Please contact Father Brad in the parish office for more information or to sign up.

From the Discernment Committee:

The Discernment Committee is still hard at work on how to approach the issue of overcrowding at Sunday Services. On Sundays April 20th and 27th, at coffee hour, there will be presentation boards with the Discernment Committee's possible solutions. The presentation boards will describe what a typical Sunday would look like with each plan and describe the costs and requirements of each plan. There will be three to four plans presented. We ask then for your comments, so that when the Discernment Committee presents its work to the Vestry, it will also present your comments. The Vestry will be meeting in June to make a final decision on how to proceed. Thank you for all of your help in this process and your patience. Ideally, in June there will be an announcement, with any changes being implemented in the fall.

Adult Education Continues

Deacon Keith's final program for the year is scheduled for **May 18th**, our Patronal feast. Our topic is, of course, our Patron, Augustine of Canterbury, the First Archbishop of Canterbury to be sure, but much more than that: diplomat, negotiator, and mediator, and in dicey times at that.

Save the Date

Thursday, June 5th -

Rabbi Barry Weinsten to speak about his work in Louisiana, post Hurricane Katrina.

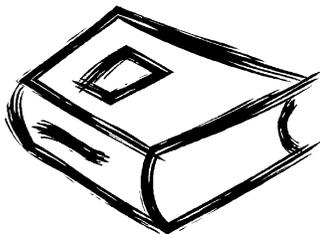
Check future Bellringers for details

A Sustainability Fair

A Sustainability Fair to celebrate Earth Day will be held by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Briarcliff, Croton and Ossining on Sunday, April 20th from 1 to 5 PM. The Fellowship is located at 2021 Albany Post Road in Croton. There will be exhibits on various products (i.e. green cleaning products, local farmers' markets, organic foods, renewable energy, etc.) There will be a representative to discuss a program for low cost home energy and videos on a number of topics.

Book Group

The bookgroup's next read/re-read is the classic **George Eliot's *Silas Marner***. Perhaps you read it in Middle School, or perhaps not, but this tale of betrayal, greed, and love should make for some interesting discussion. Next meeting: **Sunday, May 4th** after the 10 AM service. Please mark your calendars!



Mission Trip Meeting

Sunday, April 6th after the 10:00 AM service: Meeting for youth and adults about the possibility of an international mission trip in 2009. Why would we think of such a thing? How might we make it happen? Come with questions and hear about the experiences of others as we explore this possibility together.



Save the date Wondrous Things Fundraiser

A fundraiser for St. A's, along with coffee hour, will be held after the 10:00 am service on May 4th. Come buy a few bangles and baubles and support St. A's. 10% of your purchases will be donated to St. A's. It is not too early to think of all the wonderful people on your Mother's Day list. For questions please contact Anya Steger or Dana Garrett. Thank you to Ellen Irvine for making the arrangements with Wondrous Things.

The Rev. David Lee Carlson Update

All parishioners have been invited to The Rev David Lee Carlson's installation at the Congregation of Grace Episcopal Church at 4:00 pm on Sunday, April 6th. The church is located at 85 East Main Street, Port Jervis, New York.

<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>2008 VESTRY MEMBERS</u>					
Senior Warden:	<u>Duncan Cleary</u>	Junior Warden:	<u>Dana Garrett</u>		
Treasurer:	<u>Holly Anzani</u>	Clerk:	<u>Elizabeth Hoffman</u>		
Asst Treasure:	<u>Suzanne Smith</u>				
<u>Class of 2008</u>	Laura Seitz	<u>Class of</u>	Holly Anzani	<u>Class of</u>	Cathie Elliott
	Suzanne Smith	<u>2009</u>	Ed Godek	<u>2010</u>	Anya Steger
	Elizabeth Hoffman		Greg Kaebnick		David Wixted
<u>Meeting Schedule: Vestry, 3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.</u>					

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 Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520
 www.stacroton.org

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