



Bellringer

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February 2007

Rector:
The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche

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

February 2007

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|----|---|----------------------|---|
| 3 | Saturday | all day
5:00 p.m. | Vestry Retreat at Mariondale Conference Center
Holy Eucharist II, The Rev. E. Perren Hayes preaching and celebrating |
| 4 | <u>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, The Rev. E. Perren Hayes preaching and celebrating</u> | | |
| | | 8:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist I |
| | | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | | 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist II |
| | | all day | Vestry Retreat at Mariondale Conference Center |
| 6 | Tuesday | 6:30 p.m. | EFM Class |
| 10 | Saturday | 5:00 p.m. | Holy Eucharist II, The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna preaching, The Rev. E. Perren Hayes celebrating |
| 11 | <u>Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, The Rev. Amy Lamborn preaching and celebrating</u> | | |
| | | 8:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist I |
| | | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | | 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist II |
| | | 11:15 a.m. | Community Building Committee Meeting |
| | | 11:15 a.m. | Meeting for Spring Mission Trip to Mississippi |
| 13 | Tuesday | 6:30 p.m. | EFM Class |
| 14 | Wednesday | 12:00 noon | First Wednesday lunch at the Croton Diner |
| 17 | Saturday | 5:00 p.m. | Holy Eucharist II |
| 18 | <u>Last Sunday after the Epiphany</u> | | |
| | | 8:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist I |
| | | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | | 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist II |
| 19 | Monday | | Parish Office closed in observance of President's Day holiday |
| 20 | Tuesday | 6:30 p.m. | EFM Class |
| 21 | Wednesday | 12:00 noon | Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist II |
| | | 7:00 p.m. | Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist II |
| 23 | Friday | 7:00 p.m. | Stations of the Cross |
| 24 | Saturday | 3:30 p.m. | Bible Study |
| | | 5:00 p.m. | Holy Eucharist II and Healing Service |
| 25 | <u>First Sunday in Lent, Youth Group from St. John's, Kingston to speak at 10 a.m. service and after service about their mission trip to Tanzania to help AIDS orphans</u> | | |
| | | 8:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist I |
| | | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | | 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist II |
| | | 11:00 a.m. | Youth Group from St. John's, Kingston presentation about Mission Trip to Tanzania |
| 27 | Tuesday | 6:30 p.m. | EFM Class |
| 28 | Wednesday | 6:00 p.m. | House Church at the home of Libby, Kurt and Louisa Carlson. |



Bellringer, February 2007

After the rush and celebrations of Christmas and New Year's, February is normally a time of reflection and snow. We are often forced to stay indoors because of the snow, and liturgically, Lent is hovering. Both make me feel reflective. Sometimes, I am reflective of the Caribbean vacations that I would like to use as an escape from the cold, and sometimes, I am a bit more pious. I sit in my office on one of those perhaps pious occasions to inform you of some marvelous and wonderful things happening here at St. A's right now and in the next few months.

Firstly, Lent promises to be an amazing event here at St. A's. This year, Lent will be a "themed" event. Our theme is "Beyond our Walls: St. A's and our Outreach to the Community, the Nation, and the World." Since I have arrived here, many congregants have focused on outreach in two ways: both literally volunteering and by modeling stewardship and sharing some of our financial resources. As we ourselves move into a more reflective liturgical space, perhaps it is helpful for us to think about how we have lived into our faith and how we might do so in the future.

During Lent, therefore, we will be hearing about a program sponsored by Bishop Roskam to help AIDS orphans in Tanzania. Can you believe that for 50 dollars, you can sponsor a child for his/her schooling and two meals a day for an entire year? Youth from Kingston who went to Tanzania will be sharing their experiences with us. We will also hear about other opportunities that the Outreach Committee is considering, both volunteer and financial opportunities. Larry Roadman will be here one Sunday to talk about micro-credit lending and how it might help developing nations. We will also hear about an exciting volunteer opportunity in May to help refurbish homes for elderly folks in our area, as organized by the Outreach Committee. On top of that, I will be offering classes for children about our liturgical services. If our liturgy is practice for how we live, learning about our church services will certainly tie into outreach. Younger children, 5 to 7 are invited to come after church on Sunday, March 11 and on Sunday, March 25 after church, children 8 and up are invited to join me in the church to discuss our services. And finally, if

that were not enough, there will be three House Church Eucharists: The first will be at the home of the Carlsons on February 28, the second will be at the Moore/Rosenow's on March 11 and the final one at the Lee's on March 21. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the kitchen bulletin board or call the parish office. And FINALLY, on Sunday, March 4 after church, Parishioner Chris Moore will gather us around her, reading to adults and children alike to share in the reflectiveness of the season.

Lent, though, is not the only thing that I am grateful for in my pondering piety. If you have not been to church services lately, let me tell you that we have a new Deacon. Keith McKenna is a Deacon who has served at many churches in our area, the last one being St. Peter's in Peekskill. We are so excited that he and his wife Ann are here to help and join our parish. Keith has written his own article to tell you about his role here, but let me tell you that we are delighted to have someone helping us here. I have found it a gift to get to know both him and Ann, and I hope that you will feel similarly.

And, Betsy Roadman who was our Interim is also considering becoming our Associate Priest. I know that Betsy is much beloved here, and I am excited about the opportunity to work with her. I also, though, want to emphasize the word "considering" because that is extremely accurate. On March 17th and 18th, Betsy will be visiting us as a Supply Priest. She will also be preaching here on Good Friday. These two events will hopefully give us all time to try on this new relationship. But more to the point of why merely "considering"? This is at Betsy's and my requests. In church groups, or any family really, it is often difficult for individuals to change roles. In this new relationship, Betsy will go from being the person in charge, to someone whose responsibility is mainly preaching at services 16 weekends a year. This is a big change. Criticisms and praise about the church are now best handled in discussions with your Rector, who is eager to hear from you. If Betsy says, "Please talk to Brad about this," please understand and feel comfortable to do so. I am the one who can most adequately respond. Ultimately, this new relationship with Betsy has the possibility of being



wonderful for both the church and Betsy. We get her different perspective, and she gets to focus on many projects, not only being a parish priest.

Finally, I am also thankful for some thing else. At the end of December, I was offered a great opportunity. I was offered a most -expenses paid trip to the Holy Land as part of Project Interchange, a program of the American Jewish Committee. This program seeks to educate different groups of people about Biblical Israel as well as modern policies. It is promised to be an engaging and balanced program. However, the trip happens quickly. I leave on February 4th and come back 9 days later. I cannot tell you how excited I am to have my continuing education for the year be in Jerusalem. In my absence, Amy Lamborn will be preaching on February 11th.

Overall, at my six month mark, I have to say how happy I am to be here. I am also excited about all the new and wonderful opportunities going on here. We are a blessed church, made so not only by the new and wonderful things and people coming here, but also by you. I cannot wait to celebrate Easter with each of you.

God's Peace,

Bradley



A Ministry Begins
The Rev. Dn. Keith McKenna

Someone asked, on the first Sunday I was at St. A's, how deacons are addressed. That 's as good a place as any to start this note to all of you. If you write a letter to a deacon you write on the envelope "The Rev. Deacon (or Dn.) Jim Smith".

Con conversationally you could say "Deacon Sally" or "Deacon Smith". Or, you could call a deacon by his/her name in baptism: "Jim", or "Sally" or "Keith". This last is what I prefer. In answer to another question I was asked: Deacons serve without pay.

My sermon on Jan 20, 21 has given you something of the theological basis upon which deacons

function, but I think that I need to give you some concrete examples of the projects and services I might help to facilitate at St. A's.

Brad and I have had a number of conversations about new program ideas you all have been discussing, and I hope to be able to help in some way with all of them. For the moment Brad has asked me to work with the Outreach Committee, as it explores possible ways for St. A's parishioners to be involved in charitable outreach in the larger life of the community. Three ideas, though by no means exclusive or binding now, are:

- Helping with the soup kitchen in Peekskill;
- Helping in other food distribution programs locally, such as, for example, Midnight Run;
- Joining in a collaborative effort with other denominations to offer practical ESL training for non-English speaking people living in the community.

I was a teacher of English by profession, and have always been excited to construct and offer adult education programs in the parishes where I have worked. Some of these have been:

- Celtic Christianity;
- Just and Unjust War;
- Church History: an Inquirers' Series;
- Christian Poets and Writers.

At St. Peter's in Peekskill we offered a healing ministry which many found comforting. A simple prayer asking for the healing power of Christ's love, and an anointing, were available to all. Generally people would come to the healing ministry after receiving the Eucharist. It was offered at a separate location in the church. If there is interest I would be happy to offer it at St. A's

As a result of one of my post -teacher-retirement careers, I have a background in fundraising and organizational consulting, and will of course, make any and all that I have learned available to St. A's as it moves forward.

Oh- and one more thing: As a result of another of my post -teacher-retirement careers, I am a Notary Public, so if you need something notarized just ask me.

Keith



Vestry Minutes from the December Meeting.

- *Finance:* The budget for 2007 was passed by the Vestry.
- *Stewardship:* It is estimated that St. A's will have approximately \$142,000 in pledges for 2007.
- *Outreach:* The Outreach Committee reported exploring the possibility of investing in a microloan credit agency. The Committee is also organizing an Americares project, to take place in May.
- *Buildings and Grounds:* Brad joyously reported that the new dishwasher has been purchased for the New Rectory.
- *Visitation:* Bishop Roskam will be visiting St. A's on Sunday, October 14, 2007.



Vestry Minutes from the January Meeting.

- *Treasurer Holly Anzani* reported that there was a small surplus from the 2006 Operating Budget, which will be divided between the Outreach and Capital Expenses funds.
- *Stewardship:* Pledges are currently at \$137,349, and there are still a few more expected.
- *Mission:* There are 14 people who are definitely signed up for the mission trip to Bay St. Louis, with more people expected.
- *Buildings and Grounds:* Brad, Louise Levey, Laura Seitz and Duncan Cleary recently met with the Director of Property Support for the Diocese, who did a walk through of the buildings and made suggestions for future maintenance.

Respectfully submitted,

--Chris Moore, Clerk of the Vestry

Treasurer's Report

December Operations: Financial operations continue to be strong, despite a severe lag in pledge receipts. At year end, pledges were over \$8,000 behind budget (although an improvement over last month). Overall, expenses came in lower than expected, mitigating the sharp decline in pledge income. Chief among these were Search expenses, which came in lower due to the prolonged nature of the search process. Income categories have been stable and in line with the budget. The wreath sale was a success, generating over \$2,600 to support operations. Year end results for 2005 and the 2006

Operating Budget will be presented in the Annual Report at the Annual Meeting.

Community Building Committee to begin. St. A's is hoping to organize a group of people who are interested in helping with a variety of Community Building activities. These activities would range from outings, special events, picnics, making care packages for those away in college, and helping and enhancing already existing events. Our first meeting will be Sunday February 11, 2007 right after the 10 a.m. service. If you would like to be a part of any or all of this committee please contact Loren Zack at 962-1254 or zackhome@optonline.net or Jenn at 271-3501 or august@bestweb.net in the Parish Office.

First Wednesday gathering will be postponed a week to the second Wednesday, February 14. We will gather at the Croton Diner for lunch and fellowship. Please call the parish office (271 -3501) if you would like to join us.

Walking Together: The seventh consecutive year for this program to bring Christian, Jewish and Muslim families together for fun and learning.

The program for 4th to 7th graders will meet for three days: March 4, 11 and 18 from 3 -6 p.m. at Asbury Methodist Church. Participants will explore the similarities and differences between each others' faiths in fun and entertaining ways. Registration is limited to 15 children and their parents so if you are interested please contact Becky Haynes at 271-3166.

Book Signing: Betsy Roadman has organized a book reading/signing event for Nora Gallagher, whose first novel, *Changing Light*, will be published this month. Please mark your calendar for Monday, February 26, 7:30 p.m., All Saints' Episcopal Church, Briarcliff Manor, New York. Come for the opportunity to talk with Nora. For more information contact Betsy Roadman: 923 - 3571.

Lenten Events 2007: Beyond our Walls
St. A's and our Outreach to the Community, the Nation, and the World

Ash Wednesday, February 21st at Noon: Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
and 7 PM: Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Friday, February 23rd and All Fridays in Lent: 7 PM Stations of the Cross.

Sunday, February 25th at the 10 AM service: Come listen to The Youth Group of St. John's, Kingston speak about their Mission Trip to Tanzania and find out what we can do to help children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic.

Wednesday, February 28th at 6:00 PM: House Church at the Home of Kurt, Libby, and Louisa Carlson. Children are welcome. The Carlsons will supply an entree. They ask that you bring something else to share. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the parish kitchen.

Sunday, March 4th at the 10 AM service: Come listen to Chris Moore, a professional reader, share a story for the sermon.

Sunday, March 11th: Outreach Fair! At Coffee Hour following the 10 Am liturgy, come find out about the various ways to volunteer through St. A's, and find out about the work we do to help some community operations.

Sunday, March 11th: Following the 10 AM Liturgy, younger children, 5-8, are invited to a class about Communion in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, March 11th at 6:00 PM: House Church at the home of Chuck, Chris, Bennett, and Nina Rosenow. Children are welcome. They will supply the entree. They ask that you bring something else to share. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the parish kitchen.

Saturday and Sunday, March 17th- 18th: Betsy Roadman Preaches at weekend services.

Wednesday, March 21st at 6:00 PM: House Church at the home of Heidi, John, and Alex Lee. Children Welcome. They will supply the entree. They ask that you bring something else to share. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the parish kitchen.

Sunday, March 25th: After 10 AM service, Adults are invited to hear Larry Roadman speak about Micro-Credit lending agencies.

Sunday, March 25th: After 10 AM service, Older children, 7-12, are invited to join Father Brad in Church for a lesson about our Church Services

