



The Bellringer

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February 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 (Parish Office)

February 2008

2	Saturday	all day	Vestry Retreat at Parish House
		5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
3	<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
4	Monday	7:30 pm	Outreach Committee Meeting
5	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
		7:00 p.m-9:00 p.m.	Mardi Gras Party hosted by the Mississippi Volunteers
6	Wednesday	12:00 Noon	Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist II
		12:45 p.m.	First Wednesday Luncheon, following service
		7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist II
9	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
10	<u>First Sunday in Lent</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
12	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
		6:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer with Stations of the Cross in the Church
16	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II, Betsy Roadman Preaching
17	<u>Second Sunday in Lent</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I, Betsy Roadman Preaching
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II, Betsy Roadman Preaching
		11:00 a.m.	<i>The Marys of the New Testament</i> , Adult Education
18	Monday		Parish Office closed in observance of President's Day holiday
19	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer with Stations of the Cross in the Church
23	Saturday	10:00 a.m-Noon	Workshop on Therapeutic Movement led by Tina Maxwell
		5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
24	<u>Third Sunday in Lent,</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.	<i>The Marys of the New Testament</i> , Adult Education
26	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
		6:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer with Stations of the Cross in the Church



From the Rector:

Under the category of interesting, lesser known bits of trivia is this from the *Book of Common Prayer*: “Easter Day is always the Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox on March 21, a date which is fixed in accordance with an ancient ecclesiastical computation, and which does not always correspond with the astronomical equinox.” And for your information, March 21st is the Full Moon.

What could this ridiculous, seemingly useless, bit of information possibly mean, aside from its implications for werewolves? Well, let me translate for you: Ash Wednesday is really early this year. Lent is really early this year, and Easter will probably be here before the crocuses. In fact, Easter will not be this early again for quite awhile, the year 2160 to be precise. And so, just when you thought it was safe to relax from the holiday season, here we go again. Luckily, Lent is not a season which requires much in the way of extra work or social obligations, and Easter has, thankfully, not been horribly co-opted, except for that nameless bunny! In fact, perhaps it is good for everyone (except perhaps your diligent Rector) that Lent comes so early. It can be a positive and welcome antidote to the Christmas, Jewish, other ethnic, and New Year celebrations. Lent does require extra thought and prayer, and perhaps discipline, but it is a season to relax into, something to cuddle up to with a cup of tea. In my humble opinion, we desperately need that. We have all (at least if I use myself as a case study) given way too much lately, been out too late, sang too much, some of us drank too much, and most made too many mall trips to get that one last gift or grocery store item. We all indulged or simply had too much to do, and it might be appropriate to tighten up the pant and the purse strings, and to find an antidote for our ills.

And therefore... **Lent**. Lent is really a contrived period. Lent does not occur on the church calendar because we are actually remembering something that happened as in the birth of Jesus. Instead, we are PREPARING ourselves for something. That something is **Easter**, when we joyfully acknowledge the life-giving quality of love. But how we prepare for that, how we use Lent is entirely up to us. Extra prayers, doing something joyful, taking on a task, working on something new, or simply enjoying life... we are invited to relax into time with God so that we might better understand and live that life-giving quality of love.

And so, this Lent, we have an offering of events, liturgies, and days that are meant to rejuvenate your soul and care for your spirit. On Saturday, March 8th, from 10:00 am to 12 Noon, Tina Maxwell of **Dance on Hudson** will be offering a workshop on therapeutic movement for parishioners. We also have a quiet day offered by Teresa Rhodes McGee on Saturday, March 1st entitled *Seeking God in Mud Season*. She will be talking about the how to dwell with, live in, and be present to the “mud seasons” in our lives. And on Sundays, February 17th and 23rd, Deacon Keith will be teaching a course on the Mary’s of the New Testament.

We will also have a relaxing, low-key **Evening Prayer** every Tuesday night at 6:30, including two **Stations of the Cross** each week. We will also have a **House Church** at church on **Thursday, March 6th at 5:30**. And our book group, which has read both a biographical work and a novel, will look at a bit of religious writing by Wayne Meeks, a short book entitled, “Christ is the Question.”

But just in case you think that the party shouldn’t be over just yet, know that the Mission Trippers who went to Mississippi are hosting a **Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras** event on **February 5th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM**. Come out for some great Cajun cooking and a presentation on their trip.

All in all, this Lent is meant to be an antidote to the strenuousness of the end of year holidays. And, we are meant to be preparing for something amazing. So rest up, and relax into the season.

The best is yet to come!



Bradley

Vestry Minutes from the January Meeting.

- ✓ The four parishioners running for the Vestry are: **Anya Steger, David Wixted, Cathie Elliott and Elizabeth Hoffman.** The election will be held at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27, after the 10:00 service, and voting will also take place at the 5 pm and 8 am services.
- ✓ St. A's has received another Energy Star grant in the amount of \$1,189, which will be used to buy a new refrigerator and thermostat for the Rectory and a new dishwasher for the parish kitchen.
- ✓ The Vestry Retreat will be held on Saturday, February 2 at the Parish House. The Vestry will be discussing the work of the Discernment Committee, the possibility of a parish mission statement, buildings and grounds issues, committee leadership, and fundraising.



Respectfully submitted,

--Chris Moore, Clerk of the Vestry

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Year-end 2007 Report.

The Church's financial operations continued to deteriorate for the last quarter of 2007. Expenses were generally lower than expectations. Administrative expense came 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. 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 since the beginning of summer, especially pledges. JuneFest raised

\$20,988 (remarkably close to the \$21,000 in the budget). Space Use improved, but was still below expectations, with revenues 35% lower than budgeted. Current Year Pledges were budgeted at \$142,000 for 2007 (only \$137,599 in pledges were actually made for the year however). Of that amount, only \$127,180 was received during 2007, leaving a close to \$15,000 shortfall in pledge revenues v. budget, and a shortfall of over \$10,000 v. pledges made. Although expenses were generally lower than expected, they were not low enough to make up for this revenue shortfall, resulting in continued deterioration of our financial position, and an actual deficit of (\$12,863) versus the budgeted deficit of (\$132). This operating loss will have to be covered by our operating reserve, significantly depleting the amount available in our reserve for unforeseen events, or for revenue shortfalls in coming years.

Financial Operations through December 31, 2007:

	<i>Expenses Paid</i>		<i>Revenues Received</i>
Administrative	\$ (46,481.59)		
Priest	\$ (81,010.08)	Fundraising	\$ 27,770.06
Service/Program	\$ (20,073.96)	Plate	\$ 23,974.97
Diocese	\$ (19,372.00)	Pledge	\$ 129,902.35
Outreach	\$ (8,645.23)	Space	\$ 6,062.50
Property	\$ (33,071.36)	Investments	\$ 8,082.31
TOTAL	\$(208,654.22)	TOTAL	\$195,791.29
(deficit)/surplus	\$ (12,862.93)		
budgeted deficit	\$ (132.91)		

2008 Pledge Update

Thank you to the 88 families who have pledged for 2008.

*Thank you
from the Mississippi Participants*

Dear friends,

Through your help and generosity, we raised more than \$8,000 for Saint Augustine's fourth relief trip to the Gulf Coast. During our five days on the Mississippi coast, our three work crews weatherproofed and sided four houses, and laid out the grid for a fifth.

On behalf of all 31 of us, I cannot thank you enough for your outpouring of compassion and support that made this trip a reality.

We are a small church with a big heart. Let's review what Saint A's has accomplished in the two and a half years since the hurricane:

- ❖ In September of 2005, we sent a Winnebago loaded with supplies to the relief camp in Long Beach, Mississippi.
- ❖ In March of 2006, we made our first mission trip: a group of 9 spent a week in Pass Christian gutting houses and clearing debris.
- ❖ That summer, we underwrote the cost of sending two children from the coast away for two weeks at camp.
- ❖ This past April, we returned to the gulf with a group of 23. Working out of the 'Mission on the Bay' volunteer camp on the grounds of Christ Church, our partner parish in Bay St. Louis, we spent the week painting houses, clearing debris and restoring property.

In addition to these specific efforts, the special collections and financial donations from Saint A's over the past two years now run well into the thousands of dollars.

As the Mississippi coast struggles to rebuild, its needs and priorities are changing. Higher skill levels are required of volunteers, and I am happy to report that, with your support, our crews more than rose to the challenge. At some point in the near future, we hope to be able to show you the results of both our efforts, and yours.

Thank you all for all that you do. Peace.
Ty West



Mardi Gras C lebration



The Mississippi Group is planning a thank you party & presentation on **February 5th, Fat Tuesday, at 7:00 pm**, for the folks who kicked in to send them to Mississippi...Come see pictures and here stories about the good work that was done.

Jambalaya and Shrimp Creole will be on the menu.

❧ Thank You ❧

Thanks to Everyone who helped make Christmas spectacular here at St. As': The choir, Laura Ravotti, acolytes, altar guild, flower guild, Lon Westphal, Josh Huntington, to all who donated flowers, to all who served as ushers, readers, and Eucharistic Ministers. Thank you!

Thanks to Gill Mader and Robert Jaeger for organizing our first efforts at the Peekskill Soup Kitchen.

Thanks to our outgoing Vestry Members: Loren Zack, Chris Moore, Louise Levey, and Jeff Lawton. Your commitment to the life of this parish is astounding!

Thanks to our Block 4 Sunday School Teachers!

Thanks to all who helped at the Croton Caring Committee's Luncheon in January: especially Kim Westphal, Cathie Elliott, and Kathe McBride, Claire and Agnes Leyden, Rebecca Kaebnick, Duncan, Nora, and Mary Kate Cleary and Mary Ellen O'Neill, and others!

Thanks to all who went to Mississippi!! They worked on four homes and another building! Congratulations!

Thanks to our wise-guy, Wise-men who made Epiphany epipharific: Mark Anzani, Duncan Cleary, and Ed Godek

Thank you to Gill and Siegfried Mader, Kim Stucko, and Kamalini Martin and everyone who helped set up and clean up for Julie Dumper's funeral.

Thanks to everyone who has pledged: the life of this parish is possible because of you!

Thank you to Louise Levey and Kamalini Martin and everyone who helped set up and clean up for The Croton Interfaith Martin Luther King Jr. Service.

Baptism

Are you interested in the Sacrament of Baptism for you or your child? Lent is an especially appropriate time to prepare for baptism. If so, please speak with Fr. Brad following the service, or call the parish office at 271-3501.

Youth Council Upcoming Events:

Sunday, March 2nd, 4:00-7:00 PM. Dinner and a Movie at the Parish House. For more information, contact Mary Ellen O'Neill

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.



Lay Eucharist Ministers: If you are interested in becoming part of the Lay ministry please contact John Harbeson or Kim Stucko. Eucharistic Ministers lead the prays of the people and help administer the chalice.

First Wednesday

First Wednesday gathering will be Wednesday, February 6. We will gather in the parish hall for lunch and fellowship after the Ash Wednesday service. Please call the parish office (271-3501) if you would like to join us.

Quiet Day

Come to a Lenten Quiet Day on March 1st from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, hosted by Teresa Caitlin McGee. The title of the day is: Seeking God in Mud Season. The great mystic Teresa of Avila shouted to God on the occasion of a broken axel in the mud, "If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them." We observe Lent in the middle of mud season, a time when the earth is messy and transitioning to rebirth but depressing and not quite there yet. We echo Teresa in our own experiences, wondering where God is when life feels hard, wanting to believe in transformation when all seems grey, and needing quiet space in a busy world. The Lenten Quiet Day will provide an opportunity to honor the season by reflecting on God's presence in the everyday mud of our lives. Lunch will be provided, but a donation is appreciated to help offset costs.



Update on Father David Carlson

We wish the best and offer prayers for our previous Rector, the Rev. David Carlson, as Father David moves to a new parish: Grace Church in Port Jervis, New York.

Adult Education Update, from the Deacon

Back in the Fall I wrote a piece for the Bellringer outlining a series of Adult Ed programs for the year. The first of these, on the topic of Celtic Spirituality, was well received on the two Sundays bracketing All Saints Day.

A second program, for early Epiphany, was to be offered as a general survey of Theology, as that term has meaning for us as Episcopalians. Because of a number of exigent events, that program has been postponed, perhaps until the Fall of 2008.

Coming up in Lent we will offer our planned series on "*The Marys of the New Testament*". These are scheduled for **Feb. 17**, **Feb. 24**, and, if there is interest, for **March 2**. The program on the 17th will be about Mary, The Mother of God, as she comes to us in the Gospels but also in centuries of poetry, prayer, and devotion. On the 24th we'll look at Mary Magdalene, who is, in every age, the object of fascination, folklore and fabrication, but who is also, in the Gospel of John, the hero emerging in the final crisis.

If there is time, and interest, we can go on, on March 2, with an examination of the other Marys. Let's consider: how many courageous Marys are standing with the Beloved Disciple at the foot of the cross in John's Gospel? Who are they? Do they appear elsewhere?

The final program 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.

We are very much open to suggestions for other offerings. There has been one request already for a revisit of the topic of Just War (presented last Spring) with a view to updating our understandings of what has occurred since then. Please speak to Keith or Brad about your thoughts on this.

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 on March 23rd. 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.

Book Group Notes

We had a nice, large, thoughtful gathering on Sunday to discuss *Gilead*. This is to let you know that our next book will be Wayne Meek's "*Christ is the Question*", a great, thoughtful book for Lent that is a modern rebuttal to the old phrase *Christ is the Answer*.

We will meet on **Sunday, March 9th**, after the 10 AM service.

Fast Fact

The Episcopal Church has more than 2.4 million members in 7,679 congregations in 110 dioceses (and one similar geographic convocation) situated in 15 countries plus the United States.

Note on Dioceses, Congregations and Church Structure:

- Dioceses and congregations remain part of the Episcopal Church even when local leaders and/or a number of parishioners opt to leave the denomination as a matter of personal choice.
- Dioceses are created by the General Convention and cannot be dissolved without action of the General Convention in accordance with the provisions of the churchwide constitution and canons. Congregations, likewise, are created by a local diocese and continue within that structure unless otherwise decided by the local bishop in consultation with other elected diocesan leaders.
- Since 2003, some 45 congregations are known to the Episcopal News Service to have experienced the vote of a majority of members to consider affiliating with part of an overseas Anglican Province. In many of these cases, an ongoing – albeit smaller – congregation continues within the Episcopal Church, the local diocese, and with a newly elected vestry.

Lenten Events 2008

Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras, February 5th: 7:00 to 9:00 PM. A Thank You from our Mississippi Mission Trippers. Come for a dinner of Jambalaya and Shrimp Creole. Leave happy, full, and with a DVD of their trip. A great last fiesta before Lent.

Ash Wednesday, February 6th

Noon: Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes and Soup Luncheon following.

7 PM: Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Tuesday, February 12th and all Tuesday evenings in Lent: 6:30 PM Evening Prayer with Stations of the Cross.

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

Sunday, February 17th after the 10:00 AM service Deacon Keith leads a discussion series on the Marys of the New Testament. This session will focus on Mary, the Mother of God.

Sunday, February 24th after the 10:00 AM service: Deacon Keith continues his discussion on the Marys of the New Testament and focuses us on Mary Magdalene.

Saturday, March 1st from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. A Quiet Day with Teresa Caitlin McGee. The day is titled: Seeking God in the Mud Season and will deal with issues related to finding God in the greyness and mud seasons of our lives. Lunch will be provided.

Sunday, March 2nd at the 10 AM Children's Service: Come listen to Chris Moore, a professional reader (yes, that's right, she makes money reading out loud), share a story for the sermon.

Thursday, March 6th at 5:30 PM, House Church at Church: Instead of small gatherings elsewhere, we are doing one big house church experience AT CHURCH. Children are welcome. We will eat at 5:30 and then go into the church for a child-friendly Eucharist. Please bring a food item to share.

Saturday, March 8th from 10:00 AM until 12 Noon. Tina Maxwell from Dance on Hudson leads a workshop on therapeutic movement. Come in comfortable clothes for this exciting, healing morning!

Saturday and Sunday, March 8th and 9th: Betsy Roadman Preaches at weekend services.

Sunday, March 9th after the 10:00 AM service: Meeting of the St. A's Bookgroup to discuss Wayne Meeks' *Christ is the Question*, a wonderful book about what the person of Jesus means for us and how to read the Bible. All are invited.



Holy Week at St. A's:

Palm Sunday, March 16th: 9:45 Liturgy of the Palms in the Parish Hall. Children's Event will be held during the service.

Maundy Thursday, March 20th: 7:00 PM Agape Meal and 8:00 PM Maundy Thursday Liturgy. Enjoy a meal with friends. The church will provide some mainstays, and invites you to bring some simple, Middle-eastern fair for this traditional meal followed by the service

Maundy Thursday Overnight Vigil, March 20th-21st beginning at 9:00 PM: Following the Maundy Thursday Liturgy, sign up to keep vigil in the Sanctuary overnight.

Good Friday, March 21st Good Friday Liturgy at 12 Noon

Holy Saturday, March 22nd Easter Vigil at 7 PM.

Easter Day: March 23rd Easter Day: services at 9 and 11 AM. Children's activities will be provided during the sermon. Easter Egg Hunt will happen BETWEEN the 9 and 11 AM service.

<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, 7:45 p.m.					

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St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
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