



The Bellringer

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July/August 2005

Rector:
The Reverend Betsy Johns Roadman

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

July 2005

2	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II	<p>Déjà Vu, St. A's Thrift shop, will be closed for the summer and will reopen after Labor Day. Please do not leave any donations until the fall. We will reopen with a sale in September.</p>
3	<u>The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</u>			
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I	
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II	
4 & 5	Monday & Tuesday		Parish Office Closed for July 4 th Holiday	
9	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II	
10	<u>The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</u>			
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I	
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II	
		1:00 p.m.	Chadeayne/Pezzullo Wedding	
12	Tuesday	8:00 p.m.	Adult Education Forum: "A Everything You Wanted to Know about Being Episcopalian" in Parish Hall	
16	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	
17	<u>The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</u>			
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I	
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II	
		11:00 a.m.	Newcomers' Brunch	
19	Tuesday	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Interim Pastors' Meeting in Parish Hall	
20	Wednesday	8:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting at Rectory	
23	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II and Healing Service	
24	<u>The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</u>			
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I	
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist II	
26	Tuesday	8:00 p.m.	Adult Education Forum: "Considering Our Prayer Life" in Parish Hall	
30	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	
31	<u>The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, The Rev. Amy Lamborn to preach and celebrate</u>			
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I	
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II	

August 2005

3	Wednesday	12:00 a.m.	First Wednesday barbecue	<p>There is no First Wednesday in July. However, in August we will meet at 12:00 noon on the 3rd for Noonday Prayer, barbecue and potluck lunch. Please RSVP to the parish office by July 29.</p>
6	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	
7	<u>The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, The Rev. John Lloyd to preach and celebrate</u>			
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I	
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II	
13	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II	
14	<u>The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u>			
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I	
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II	
16	Tuesday	8:00 p.m.	Adult Education Forum: "Jesus in Context" led by Gerald Ardito in Parish Hall	
20	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II and Healing Service	
21	<u>The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u>			
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I	
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II	
27	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II	

August 2005 (continued)

28	<u>The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u>	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
30	Tuesday	8:00 p.m.	Adult Education Forum: "Jesus in Context" led by Gerald Ardito in Parish Hall

Adapted from a Sermon by The Rev. Betsy Johns Roadman, 6/5/05, Text: Matthew 9:9-13

My first real experience of life at St. Augustine's was at JuneFest last year. Larry and I came to the dinner and auction on Saturday night, knowing only two people. And we loved it. People introduced themselves to us and included us, though they'd never laid eyes on us before. We loved the delicious homemade food. We loved the creativity and the diversity of the auction offerings, and the enthusiasm with which the bidding took place. The next day, despite the crummy weather, scores of people staffed booths, ran games, and seemed to be having a fabulous time doing it. I remember thinking, "This is what community is supposed to look like."

Community is one of the things that St. A's does best. Events are approached with excitement and carried out with widespread support and participation. People seem to value every opportunity to be together. Coffee hour at St. A's is practically a sacrament. There's warmth, energy, and inclusion. This is what community is supposed to look like. If we had to define it simply, we might say that community is what St. A's is about.

Today's Gospel reading is one of many examples of what Jesus was about. Time and again, according to the Gospel writers, Jesus noticed those who were the outsiders – those who were despised and shunned by the proper, "nice," religious people. Jesus intentionally sought out those outsiders, spending time with them, and communicating the reality of the love and presence of God to them, through word and action. Jesus was about breaking down boundaries. He was about building community. He drew people to himself so that they might be fed, healed, and forgiven – and lives were transformed. And when that happened, Jesus then sent those same people out to do what he did, so that the kingdom of God might be established in and through them.

I believe that we at St. A's are ready to take a next step. It seems to me that over a number of years, community in this place has been, rightfully, about welcoming, and drawing in, and caring for, so that we might become and remain a vibrant and solvent parish. Building community has been intentional, and it's been hard work. We're now experiencing the abundant fruit of that labor.

But the goal of our life together in Christ isn't, ultimately, to exist for ourselves. Our purpose isn't to experience meaningful liturgy, to worship in a lovely, historic building, to enjoy incredibly special fellowship, just so that we can all be together and do it again next week. Our worship, our experience of community, all the ways that we seek to deepen and strengthen our faith are for the specific intention of being a light to the world, an agent of healing and transformation, empowered by the love and presence of God.

According to the experts, every priest in charge of a congregation needs to make an "I have a dream" speech at least once a year – to affirm the strengths of that congregation and to issue a challenge. So, on the anniversary weekend of my first taste of JuneFest – St. A's ultimate example of community – I offer you my dream.

Right now, the money that we raise through our various community-building events is mostly for us – to make up the difference between what we receive in pledges, plate offering, and other sources of income, and what we actually need to be able to pay the bills. We don't spend lavishly; the budget is absolutely bare-bones. The dream that I have for St. A's is that the gap between income and expenses would be made up, instead, by increased giving on our part. My dream is that every dollar raised at these events at which our parishioners give so much of themselves, and at which the blessing and gift of community is so evident, would be designated, completely, for outreach.

Can you imagine what it would be like for us to be able to sell quiche at the gourmet food booth and hamburgers from the grill so that all the money we made on food went to a soup kitchen in Ossining or to a feeding program in a refugee camp? Wouldn't it be amazing to be able to run children's games with the specific goal of sending a dozen inner-city kids to camp? Or to earmark auction proceeds so that homeless families in Westchester could be temporarily housed at a center, staffed by a social worker, at which vocational counseling and job training were offered? What a model of community that would be!

All it would take for this dream to be realized would be for us to make up the gap in the budget that the revenue from JuneFest fills with sacrificial giving on our part. That would require significant gifts from a few, and small, but important, increases in giving from many. We can do that! When, during an interview, our top candidate for rector asks, as I promise he or she will, "What is St. Augustine's commitment to outreach?" imagine what it would be like to answer, "This is what we're about: we will pour heart and soul into community-building events, so that we can give away \$20,000 or \$25,000 each year." This is not an impossible dream.

Jesus was about building community so that boundaries might be broken down, including the boundaries between those who have and those who don't. Might we at St. A's, who have so very much, be called to be that kind of community? Amen.

Sunday School Children and Acolytes who missed the end of the year awards may pick up their pins after church in the sacristy.

On July 17 we welcome all old and new parishioners to our potluck Newcomers' Brunch. Please come and introduce yourself if you're new to St. A's, and if you've been here awhile, come welcome our newcomers! Sign up in the Parish Hall or call the church office 271-3501 to let us know what you'd like to bring.

News and Notes: This new section will announce events in our Parish Life, such as births, weddings, and losses. We welcome John Ryan Ottaviano born May 23, grandnephew of Cathie and Bob Elliott, third great grandson of Bob Elliott, Jr. and Jonathan Garrett Evans born May 15, 2005, grandson of Caren Evans. We offer our prayers for the de Graaf family on the death of Jeff's father, Bill, and the Shawcross family on the death of Andrew's mother, Barbara.

Vestry Notes from the June meeting:

- Senior Warden Kim Westphal reported to the Vestry that she spoke to Anne Kennedy, and that the date for the Croton Caring Committee luncheon in the fall is Saturday, October 8. The Vestry then decided that the date for St. A's second annual Oktoberfest celebration should be on Saturday October 1, with the Blessing of the Animals taking place at 4:00 that same day, followed by the usual 5:00 service.
- Buildings and Grounds - Committee Chairman Mark Anzani reported that St. A's parishioner Andrew Kane will be staining the new wainscoting behind the altar to match the other woodwork, as well as patching the wall and painting. This will all be done after the stained glass window is fully restored, which will be very soon.
- In order to maintain the most flexibility for worshipping in our sanctuary and making use of the air conditioning in the parish hall as needed, a temporary worship space in the parish hall will be set up on Saturday, July 16 (following a wedding that will take place in the church). Each Friday for the rest of the summer, we will determine where worship will take place that weekend, depending on the weather report. A team of volunteers will set up chairs and transfer hymnals and prayer books as needed.
- Youth Council - The Youth Council is hoping to set up an "Alex's Lemonade Stand" in the near



- future, possibly at the Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger in October. These lemonade stands were the idea of a young girl named Alex, who recently died of cancer. The stands are set up nationwide, and have raised millions of dollars to advance cancer research. The Youth Council also discussed the possibility of setting up a stand at next year's JuneFest, and at the Clearwater Festival.
- There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall for the Newcomers' Brunch, to be held on Sunday, July 17, after the 10:00 service.. All are, of course, welcome to come to this potluck brunch, but those who have been attending St. A's for less than a year are especially and warmly invited to attend.
- This year's JuneFest went very, very well, with the total earnings coming in at just under \$20,000! A detailed breakdown of the amounts made per booth will follow just as soon as all receipts are received.
- Outreach - The Teen Theatre of Croton will be using the parish hall on June 27, the week of July 5 and the week of July 11 for singing rehearsals. The Vestry voted to sponsor an intern to attend a camp run by the Rural Migrant Ministry.
- Search Committee - The Vestry voted to approve the recommendation of the Search Committee that the parish profile come in at 20 pages, which is the average length, and gives adequate space to describe the area as well as the parish itself.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 20.

submitted by Chris Moore, Clerk of the Vestry

Summer Worship: In order to maintain the most flexibility for both worshipping in our beautiful sanctuary when possible and making use of the air conditioning in the parish hall as needed, we will set up a temporary worship space in the parish hall on Saturday, July 16 (following a wedding that will take place in the church). Each Friday for the rest of the summer, we'll determine where worship will take place that weekend, depending on the weather report. A team of volunteers will set up chairs in the parish hall as needed and put hymnals and prayer books in the appropriate space.

 **Treasurer's Report:** Financial operations for May continued at strong levels. Expenses are in line with expectations and revenues are stable. Preliminary results for JuneFest indicate that we have had our best JuneFest ever, which will help to ease any budgetary pressures in the remainder of the year.

June Fest Congratulations!

This year's June Festival was fantastic ! We had great weather (very hot on Sunday) , lots of contributions of baked goods, gourmet delicacies, white elephants, plants, etc., and many people pitched in to organize, price, sell, cook, count and clean-up! We also had an amazing steel drum band on Sunday that added to the festive atmosphere! Let's hope we can entice them to come back next year.

Raffle Results: The \$150 Money Tree was won by the niece of parishioner Terri Wright . The high -tech flashlight donated by Croton Hardware was won by Joe Nicotra, while long -time parishioner, Marge Galbraith, won the \$25 gift certificate donated by Wondrous Things. Croton's Astrid Vaughan won the \$15 gift certificate given by Swanson Florist while Ossining's Jim Capossela won High Tea for Two at the Enjoy Tea Room. Finally, Larry Roadman won a beautiful jeweled mini picture frame donated by the Art Barn.

The African Team Ministries booth took in \$2037.00 for both Mother's Day (\$833) and Junefest (\$1204), a new record, which was sent to African Team Ministries for support of children in Africa who have HIV/AIDS.

Results Of June Festival 2005!

Auction	\$7910	Baked Goods	\$454	Rummage	\$2266	Gold Fish	\$569
Games	\$1192	Gourmet Food	\$819	Grill	\$1763	Plants	\$572
Dinner	\$643	White Elephant	\$2771	Concerts	\$6	Toys	\$501
Pub	\$416	Face painting	\$157	Cocktails	\$182	Money Tree	\$298
Food Fest	\$1635						

GRAND TOTAL: \$ 20,971 (after general expenses to date, this may change as expenses come in)

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Betsy Johns Roadman

Rector Emeritus: The Rev. David B. Wayne

2005 VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden: Kim Westphal Junior Warden: Ty West
Treasurer: Holly Anzani Clerk: Chris Moore

<u>Class of 2005</u>	Cathie Elliott	<u>Class of 2006</u>	Terri Huntington	<u>Class of 2007</u>	Ellen Irvine
	Dana Garrett		Betsy Joslyn		Louise Levey
	Mark Anzani		Gerald Ardito		Chris Moore

Meeting Schedule: Vestry, 3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.

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

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