



The Bellringer

august@bestweb.net, www.stacroton.org June 2007

Rector:
The Rev. 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 (Office)

June 2007

1	Friday	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	June Fest Rummage Sale
2	Saturday	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	June Festival and Rummage Sale (10-1)
		5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite II, The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna preaching
		6:00 p.m.	June Festival Dinner and Auction
3	<u>Pentecost, The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna preaching</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
		1 p.m. – 5 p.m.	June Festival continues
5	Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	EFM Class
9	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
10	<u>The Second Sunday after Pentecost</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
		11:00 a.m.	Community Spirit Committee Meeting
12	Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	EFM Class
14	Thursday	7:30 p.m.	CLIC (Croton Lay Interfaith Council) Meeting in Parish Hall
16	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
17	<u>The Third Sunday after Pentecost</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
20	Wednesday	8:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
23	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
24	<u>The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
30	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Wedding of Dana Garrett and Dave Butz and Holy Eucharist II



A short message from Jenn: I wanted to thank all those who have made my time at St. A's such a rewarding experience. Although I will miss being your Parish Administrator, I will enjoy becoming "just a parishioner" again! You've heard it again and again: St. A's is a truly special place and I've been so fortunate to have witnessed it from the inside. Thank you all!

Welcome Holly Anne: We welcome our new Parish Administrator, Holly Anne Jeffrey, to St. A's. Please feel free to call or stop by to introduce yourselves and get to know her.

Summer Sunday School: Suzanne Smith will be organizing a low-key summer Sunday School for children of kindergarten age and younger. It will start on June 24. If you are willing to volunteer to lead it one Sunday, please contact Suzanne at: hortonsmitty@verizon.net or 827-9394.

St. Augustine's House June 2007

Happy Birthday Church!

Pentecost is the Birthday of the Church as a whole, but I only realized this week that we actually have an upcoming significant birthday for our own Church home, St. Augustine's. On July 30th, 1857, the cornerstone for St. Augustine's Church was laid. From William Michaelson's book *St Augustine's A Village Church*, we can read, "The Vestry... entered into a contract with Seth Bird to build the church, and three weeks later, July 30, 1857, the cornerstone designed by Mr. Clarkson [the first Rector] was laid by the Reverend Benjamin Haight of Trinity Parish, New York City. The stone was engraved with the words, JESUS CHRIST, and in the cavity was deposited a copy of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer. (Although a meticulous search has been made of the church building, the cornerstone has not yet been located)... On December 14, 1857 [after the completion of the building], there is a poignant entry in the vestry minutes that expresses very clearly the feeling of pride and accomplishment of the vestry in finally having built their church. The entry reads: 'The Vestry of the Church of St. Augustine met in *their* Vestry Room.'"

Who knew? Well, Jenn Latham did. She is the one who pointed this out to me, and I am so glad that she did. I am glad because how appropriate that at 150 years old, we are beginning a new process to decide who we will be and become now and in the future. And for those of you who have not noticed the fullness of our services, let me say that those decisions are intertwined with our buildings. And so, as most of you know, we have formed a Discernment Committee, and the committee is officially up and running. We even have members! We have Greg Kaebnick and Mark Anzani as co-chairs. And we have Jill Mader, Jennifer Brehl, Joe Kolanko, Amber Wylie, and our Senior Warden Duncan Cleary, and *moi* as committee members. We also have two youth representatives: Meredith West and Jack Newton.

Currently, we are in a research phase, phase one of this process. We are hoping to explore what dynamics created the growth that we have experienced over the last few years. We are also hoping to explore the possibility of whether or not we will continue to grow and why. We will explore what we could do to our buildings to accommodate more people at services, and we will explore how we could organize our weekends differently to accommodate more people. We will be exploring who we are, who we have been, and how to address who we want to be! Part of that research, though, will most likely, also involve everyone who is a parishioner here. We will need your input and your help as we go forward, so that we can make this decision as a community. It probably does not mean that everyone will be in total agreement with any solution that the Vestry and the Committee come to, but it does mean that everyone will be informed and part of the process to arrive at those decisions.

My suspicion is that our church will continue to grow. I don't think we have to worry about becoming a mega-church, or even a large church. But we are a welcoming, loving, kind place. Most feel at home when they walk through our doors. And I believe that our particular message of God's love is needed and useful in our world. With this community, and our understanding of God, people will want to be with us. We will most likely grow simply because of who we are and the community that we are in. I have to say that I am extremely excited about going through this process of discernment with our committee and with you. It is something that I dreamed of when I arrived here, and I am excited to be at this next step in my journey with you.

And so I close with this: Happy Birthday, St. Augustine's!! May we endeavor to celebrate you, and may we bring the love that we have known here in this place to others.

Peace,

Bradley

High School and Middle School Students: Save the dates of September 14-16th. You are invited to go 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 hiking, 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 Friday night, September 14th after school and be back on Sunday, September 16th. We will also need parents willing to participate. Please contact Father Brad in the parish office for more information or to sign up.

Vestry Notes from the May meeting:

The May meeting was an informal one due to a severe storm during the day which rendered much of Croton without power.

*~respectfully submitted,
Chris Moore, Clerk of the Vestry*

An Experiment from the Vestry and Rector: *During July and August, come to church at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings!* During the two low attendance months of July and August, we will have only one service on Sundays, at 9:00 AM. There will still be a service alternative at 5:00 PM on Saturdays. And the 9:00 AM will be similar to the normal 10:00 AM Sunday service, just an hour earlier. This, hopefully, allows for three things: First, combining the services addresses the fact that both services dwindle during the summer months (people are away, etc.). Secondly, this allows people to have a majority of the day for other family or Sunday activities. Finally, as the service is earlier, we hope that it might be possible to have services in the sanctuary instead of in the Parish Hall. For more information, please contact the Rector. As the summer progresses, we will assess whether or not this will become a future summer pattern.

Boundless energy, thoughtful conversation, great insights. . . . yes I'm talking about Middle School students! If you are interested in teaching a session of the 6th, 7th and 8th grade Sunday School class please sign up with Rachel Norfleet or Emma Wixted.

25 Sunday School Teachers Needed! Yes, 25! With 5 classes and 5 sessions, it takes many of us to make Sunday school happen. 2007-8 promises to be an exciting year for St. A's Sunday School, with an all-new curriculum designed by Father Brad and new Sunday School coordinators Emma Wixted and

Rachel Norfleet. Teachers are needed for each of the five grade levels: Pre-K, Kindergarten/1st grade, 2nd & 3rd grade, 4th & 5th grade, and 6th-8th grade. Each session is 5 to 6 weeks. NO experience is needed! We provide training, support and encouragement! Please email Rachel Norfleet at norfleets@juno.com if you are able to help in this important ministry.

Class Angels: Class Angels is a program that we will begin next Fall. Who are class angels? Class angels are high school students who help out, from time to time, in Sunday School Classes. If you are a high school student and interested, you could be assigned to a particular class and help that class, as much as you are able, throughout the year. This is a great community service, a time to help foster the faith of young kids, and a chance to take an active, adult role in the church. And everyone will look up to you for your efforts! While Sunday School teachers come and go throughout the year, you could be a mainstay. For more information, please contact Father Brad.

Treasurer's Report-

Financial Operations through April 30, 2007:			
	<i>Expenses</i>		<i>Revenues</i>
	<i>Paid</i>		<i>Received</i>
Administrative	\$(16,969.71)		
Priest	\$(28,704.82)	Fundraising	\$ 536.29
Service/Program	\$ (6,691.09)	Plate	\$ 8,375.31
Diocese	\$ (9,686.00)	Pledge	\$51,924.00
Outreach	\$ (296.41)	Space	\$ 2,560.00
Property	\$(10,020.51)	Investments	\$ 2,064.67
TOTAL	\$(72,368.54)	TOTAL	\$65,460.27
(deficit)/surplus	\$ (6,908.27)		
budgeted deficit	\$(13,891.80)		

The Church's financial operations continue to remain strong for the first four months of our fiscal year. Expenses were generally in line with expectations. Property expenses came in lower than expected due to the relatively mild winter to date. Priest also came in lower, since we had not yet hired the Assistant Priest. Outreach was also behind budget, but this was solely a timing issue. Revenues were stable and in line with expectations for the most part. The only area of significant revenue shortfall was Space Use, with revenues roughly 50% lower than budgeted. As a result, our current operating position is better than contained in the budget, with a smaller than budgeted deficit for the first months of the year.

~submitted by Holly Anzani, Treasurer

June Fest 2007

June Fest Weekend:

Friday, June 1, 9:30am – 12:30pm:

Special Rummage Sale! (books, toys, bric-a-brac, household items, furniture, etc.), Baked Goods

Saturday, June 2, 10am-3pm: *Rummage (10 – 1), grill, baked goods, gourmet foods, plants, children's games, battle of the bands*

Also Saturday, June 2, 6:00 p.m.: *Dinner and Auction*

Sunday, June 3, 1pm-5pm: *We join with Croton's Sumerfest continuing Saturday's activities with the new addition of a steel drum band. As always, the money tree raffle drawing will be at 4pm and from 3pm-5pm rummage sale is \$4.00 per bag*

Come Join the Fun!

Rector

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche

Rector Emeritus

The Rev. David B. Wayne

Priest Associate

The Rev. Betsy Johns Roadman

Deacon

The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna

2007 VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden:

Duncan Cleary

Junior Warden:

Dana Garrett

Treasurer:

Holly Anzani

Clerk:

Chris Moore

Class of 2007

Jeff Lawton

Class of 2008

Laura Seitz

Class of 2009

Holly Anzani

Louise Levey

Suzanne Smith

Ed Godek

Chris Moore

Loren Zack

Greg Kaebnick

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

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
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www.stacroton.org

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