



The Bellringer

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May 2006

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

May 2006

2	Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	EFM Class
3	Wednesday	12:00 noon	First Wednesday Tea with new Rector The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche
6	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer, Rite II, Penny Morgan, officiating and preaching
7	<u>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Rite I, Jennifer Brehl officiating
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Rite II, Mike Latham officiating and Duncan Cleary preaching
		African Team Ministries sale after each service	
		9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Blood Drive at Croton-Harmon High School
9	Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	EFM Class
13	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II, The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche, celebrating and preaching
14	<u>The Fifth Sunday of Easter, The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche, celebrating and preaching</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
		African Team Ministries sale after each service	
		Bread for the World Letter Writing after each service	
16	Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	EFM Class
17	Wednesday	8:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
20	Saturday	8:30 a.m.	Acolyte Festival at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
		5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II, The Rev. Carole Johannsen, celebrating and preaching
21	<u>The Sixth Sunday of Easter, The Rev. Gerald W. Keucher, celebrating and preaching</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		10:00 a.m.	Children's Eucharist/Sunday School Appreciation Day
		11:00 a.m.	Sunday School Lunch and book signing by Jerry Keucher
23	Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	EFM Class
27	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II and Healing Service, The Rev. Kendra McIntosh celebrating and preaching
28	<u>The Seventh Sunday of Easter, The Rev. Kendra McIntosh celebrating and preaching</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
29	Monday	Memorial Day Holiday – Parish Office Closed	



St. Augustine's House

April 30, 2006

Dear friends:

On Good Friday this year, we included The Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross in our liturgy. I asked six parishioners to participate with me in offering a short reflection on one of the seven "words."

It was an amazing and deeply moving experience. Each of the homilists brought his/her unique context and experience to a specific aspect of Jesus' Passion. Each participant looked carefully at the Scripture text and considered how and where it impacted his/her own life. The reflections were thoughtful, personal, and very relevant. Throughout the service, I kept thinking, "THIS is what it means to be the body of Christ."

As members of the body of Christ, each one of us brings our unique self to the risen Christ and to the gathered community of faith. Each one of us has so much to offer. Individually, we try to discern the voice of God in our life and to respond faithfully. Together, as a parish, we bring an abundance of gifts, a wealth of experience, boundless creativity and energy, a commitment to the work of Christ in the world, and the resources with which to carry it out. We need each other to truly become the people God has created us to be.

I feel so privileged to have had the opportunity to serve with you during this interim period. I've learned a lot about myself and my own ministry during these fourteen months. More important, I've seen "church" at its best, which has encouraged me more than I can say.

I look forward to hearing the stories of God at work in and through St. A's as you welcome Brad Dyche into this extraordinary community.

Blessings and much love,

Betsy

What's Next for Betsy?

A sabbatical, including:

- a trip to the beach at Wilmington, NC, with Larry, from May 1-5
- packing up the house in preparation for moving from Briarcliff to Mystic Pointe in Ossining (moving date tentatively scheduled for June 2)
- clergy wellness conference in Asheville, NC, May 23-30
- continued participation in a two-year course on spiritual direction offered by the Guild for Spiritual Guidance (begun in January 2006, running through December 2007)
- family reunion in June in Pittsburgh
- three-day continuing education class at General Theological Seminary in June taught by my favorite professor and biblical scholar, Phyllis Tribble
- several-month-long home renovation beginning in the summer
- officiating at a wedding in Tokyo in August

The Search for a New Rector: Fourteen months ago, we began our search for the new rector. We selected and commissioned a Search Committee. Its first job was to meet with the members of the parish to create the Parish Profile, a statement of who we are, where we are going, and what we would want in the person leading us.

Then, they began sorting through the 60 plus candidates, and had the arduous task of paring this list down to the three that would be submitted to the Vestry for final consideration. After hundreds of hours reading, discussing, and meeting with the candidates, they delivered their final three to the Vestry at the end of February. Then, the Vestry spent time with each of these three candidates in both informal (pot luck dinners) and formal (interview) settings.

After all of this consideration, reflection, and prayer, we have decided to call The Reverend Bradley C. Dyche as our next Rector. He has joyfully accepted.

Why Brad? We chose Brad for primarily three reasons. First, we all felt he was warm, personable, and related -- all qualities we knew were essential to this congregation. Second, he has done really good work with all levels of Christian Education -- from the Sunday School to their Youth Groups to adults. Third, he has a strong call for Outreach -- in June he will be leading some members of his current congregation on a mission trip to Nicaragua.

Who is Brad? Brad grew up in Oklahoma, where in fourth grade he decided to become a priest. Brad is currently the Curate at St. John's Episcopal Church in Larchmont, where he has worked for the past 3 years. He has a long term relationship with his partner, Robert.

The Transition: Betsy will be with us through April 30th, when we will celebrate her time with us at a festive coffee hour. Brad's current obligations have him starting with us in July, but we will have a chance to spend time with him three times in the meantime. Brad will join the seniors for First Wednesday Tea on May 3. He will preach and celebrate the Eucharist during all three services during Mother's Day weekend (May 13 and 14). Then he will return the weekend of JuneFest and be with us on Saturday evening for the dinner and auction and again on Sunday for the town wide festivities. He then arrives the second weekend in July to be with us fully.

Submitted by Gerald Ardito, Senior Warden.

Get ready for June Festival!

St. Augustine's June Festival is the Village of Croton's longest ongoing event. This year it will be

held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 2, 3 and 4 to coincide with the village Summerfest.

Rummage and white elephant will start on Friday. On Saturday the rummage, white elephant sales continue. We'll also have children's games, gourmet food, homemade baked goods, and a snack bar with hamburgers, hot dogs, beer and wine. The day will conclude with a cocktail party and delicious dinner. The dinner is the venue for our annual fun-filled auction featuring some wonderful and imaginative services and prizes. We will offer a sumptuous buffet including a variety of specialties made by St. A's talented gourmands. No one will be turned away! The cost will be \$10.00 per person for the buffet. The grill will be cost per item. No advance booking required. On Sunday we'll be back with more of the same activities as Saturday, with the added attraction of a steel drum band.

We need help in all areas, especially: white elephants, children's games, set-up on Friday night and early Saturday morning, clean-up after the dinner and clean-up on Sunday afternoon. Please either sign up on the posters that will be available in the parish hall, or call Betsy Joslyn (271-9591) or Regina Hertl (271-1348) to let them know how you will help. If you don't sign up or call, we will be phoning you because this is our most important (and fun) fundraiser of the year, and we need everyone's special talents to make it a success. One special message is this: better to volunteer early rather than later.

- **White Elephant:** Gather together "white elephants:" toys, games books, records, tapes or CDs, items of any kind and set them aside. Please drop off donations between Saturday, May 27 and Wednesday, May 31. ✧Note✧: We cannot accept anything after that date. If you are planning to donate, please plan on doing it sooner rather than later.
- **Baked Goods:** We need all bakers to start making goodies to sell at our Baked Goods table. These items can be frozen so you can start baking now!
- **Plants:** We are looking for someone to chair the Plant Sale this year. If you are interested, please contact Betsy Joslyn at 271-9591. It can be as big or as small as you want to make it!
- **Money Tree:** A sheet of raffle tickets for the Money Tree Raffle is enclosed in this issue of The Bellringer for those of you who wish to mail them to the parish office. Booklets of raffle tickets will soon be available (after church

services on Sundays and in the parish office during the week) for you to purchase or sell.

- **Auction:** Saturday evening will include our popular auction. Do you have a special service you would like to offer for auction? Please call Meaghan Shawcross (271-9406).

A special tea will be served on May 3 at 11:30 a.m. for May's First Wednesday to welcome our new Rector Bradley C. Dyche to Croton and St. A's. The tea will include beverages and traditional goodies. Cost is \$5.00 and a reservation is necessary (so we can be sure to have enough treats for all). Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, April 28 (271-3501).

The next Community Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, May 7, 9 a.m. –3 p.m. at CHHS. This pre-summer drive is scheduled before the Memorial Day weekend because donors are scarcer when summer holiday activities divert even the most dedicated donors. Won't you please set aside only one hour to save lives. For appointments and/or information call Mary Ellen O'Neill, 271-1307.

Thrift Shop Notes – Déjà vu: Just about 10 years ago, an outreach committee consisting of Laura Seitz, Cathie Elliott, Donna Cooper, Kate Kyle and Kathe McBride met with our then relatively new pastor, David Carlson, and Déjà vu – the St. Augustine's Thrift Shop – became an idea and soon a reality. Since then we've had the support of many parishioners: Dijwanna Miller, Sally Kurts, Donna Cooper, Ellen Irvine, Jeanne Sleplesky, Amy Gardiner, Mary O'Gara, Joan Melen, Jane Bernz, Louise and Brooke Levey, Kate Kyle, Cody, Chelsea, Kim and Lon Westphal, Jim, Amy and Phyllis Cobb, Cathie Elliott, Laura Seitz, Carol Grimes, Jill Mader, Caren Evans, Kathe McBride and Gwen Carlson all worked to make the Thrift Shop a success.

Moving a few years after we started, from the basement of St. A's to better quarters in the St. A House, not only improved our appearance, but also the quality of the merchandise. We now only carry good "gently used" clothing for the whole family. Our proceeds all go directly to Outreach and we have worked with the Cortlandt Food Bank and Croton Caring Committee over the years.

Caren Evans will be taking over the job as Thrift Shop Coordinator beginning in the fall of 2006. Caren has a background in marketing and retail so everyone is looking forward to her leadership.

She'll need help, though. Many of the original Thrift Shop workers will be taking a well deserved rest – so

Caren will need volunteers to work at the shop when it's open: Tuesdays and Saturdays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. If you are interested in helping with this worthwhile Outreach program, please call Caren at 271-9038.

Bread for the World's Annual Letter Writing Campaign will take place after services on May 13th and 14th. We *can* make progress against world hunger by writing to our representatives in Congress. Please take a few moments after each service to stop in the parish hall and write a letter.

Pastoral Care Coverage During the Transition: If there is a pastoral care need before Brad Dyche begins his ministry with us in July, please contact one of the wardens: Gerald Ardito (827-9755) or Ty West (271-3841). They will contact area clergy who have agreed to help out during the interim. Parishioners Penny Morgan and Jennifer Brehl are licensed eucharistic visitors who will bring communion to those who are unable to attend worship. Please contact the parish office (271-3501) to make arrangements.

Ask Away –Answers for any question

Question: What's the deal with the "fear of God?"

Answer: See the text of Betsy's sermon of March 12. (Go to St. A's website – www.stacroton.org - and click on "previous sermons.")

Question: Why is the priest's wafer so much bigger than everyone else's?

Answer: So the congregation can see it when the priest holds it up and breaks it. This is at the part of the service when the priest says, "Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us," and the congregation responds, "Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia." The priest doesn't consume the whole wafer herself. She breaks it into four pieces and consumes one. She then gives the other three pieces to 1) any priest who is worshipping at that service, 2) others leading worship (e.g., the organist, the eucharistic minister), 3) whomever she is led by the Spirit to give it to as people kneel at the communion rail.

Question: Why do we go to church?

Answer: To be spiritually fed, strengthened, and encouraged, so that we are then ready and eager to go back into the world to do the work that God has called and equipped us to do.

Question: What's the meaning of life?

Answer: God is love.

Law Day Choral Evensong : The Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk, Bishop of New York invites you to the Law Day Choral Evensong to pay tribute to Douglas B. Stevenson, Esq. of the Seamen's Church Institute and honor all members of the Bar and Bench in

recognition of their vocation. The Rev. Robin Griffith-Jones, Master of the Temple Church, City of London, England will be the Homilist. This event will take place on Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Chapel, Broadway and Fulton St., New York City. Reception follows in the New York County Lawyers' Association. RSVP by May 15th to The Rev. Richard Sloan at 212 -316-7427 or email rsloan@diocesenyny.org.

During our search for a new Rector, we found that one of the areas to which many felt called was Outreach. What specific areas do you feel that Outreach should be looking at this year and why? Please contact either Ty West (WestT@thirteen.org) or Penny Morgan (penelopemrgrn@yahoo.com) with ideas.

Vestry Notes from the April meeting:

- Outreach - Ty West and Dana Garrett reported on the trip to Mississippi that they made with some teenage members of the parish. Ty showed pictures of the group hard at work, wearing masks because of the mold, mucking out houses and doing massive cleanup work. The group also visited Christ Church in Bay St. Louis while they were there, and were told that the church is trying to establish a youth camp for the summer months, so that those in middle school can also go down to help out. More information will be given out on this as it becomes available. Ty and Dana said that the work was hard but rewarding, and that everyone on the trip had a terrific time.
- Buildings and Grounds - As we are preparing for JuneFest and the tenure of a new rector here at St. Augustine's, there is a great need for general spring cleanup of the grounds of the church, the rectory and the St. Francis Memorial Garden. It's clear that two days' work will be needed, and the dates will be announced as soon as they've been decided upon. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Parish Hall for all who are interested in helping out - many volunteers, of all ages and abilities, are needed!
- Senior Warden Gerald Ardito led a general discussion about the transition period for St. A's that will begin after Betsy Roadman ends her time with us on April 30. Gerald has included a letter discussing this period in detail in this copy of the Bellringer.

*Respectfully submitted,
Chris Moore, Clerk of the Vestry*

Treasurer's Report – March Operations

Financial operations for the first quarter of the year are strong. Expenses are in line with expectations and revenues are strong, especially total pledges. There

have been no fundraising efforts to date. Due to the mild winter thus far, our monthly maintenance expenses are lower than average. To date we have not yet had to repair any of our plant or equipment, also impacting the budget. We continue to experience a dip in 'Current Year Pledges' in March, with pledges running about \$2,900 behind expectations. 'Last Year Pledges' have come in stronger than expected, however, offsetting that shortfall.

Submitted by Holly Anzani, Treasurer

Sunday School Appreciation Day: Our Sunday School year concludes on May 21, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., with The Rev. Gerald Keucher celebrating a Children's Eucharist. This will be our traditional Sunday School Appreciation Day, at which all students and teachers will be honored. All children who have attended Sunday School during the year will receive pins, and awards will be given to those with the best attendance. There will be a picnic afterward during coffee hour. St. A's will provide a hero sandwich and a cake, but we ask you to bring side salads and drinks to share. We could also use some help setting up and cleaning up.

We will soon begin recruiting teachers for the 2006-2007 Sunday School year. We will be calling the parents of children in the Sunday School, but we also encourage those of you who do not have children in Sunday School to volunteer as well. In most instances the commitment is for a series of five Sundays; we currently have classes for pre -K/K, grades 1 -3, and grades 4 -6. The church provides training and a curriculum.

Finally, I will be stepping down as Superintendent of the Sunday School at the end of this next year (2006 -2007). I am looking for one or two individuals to work with me during this next year and take over the position for the following year. Please consider whether you think this might be your calling, and the way you can help St. A's. Please let me know if you can help out in any of the above ways. aleyden@optonline.net (914) 737-5338

Submitted by Agnes Leyden

News from Diocese: Anyone who would like to receive updates every two weeks from our diocese, please email Neva Rae Fox at nrfox@diocesenyny.org.



Calling all Hands!

We need volunteers to help on May 6th in a clean-up day. We have a lot of painting to do on the outside of the church and hall, so we ask you to consider volunteering a few hours of your time to help us. Families are welcome! The day will start at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. with a beer party. Lunch will be provided. Please call Louise Levey (862-4114) or Laura Seitz (271-3265) if you have any questions. In case of rain, we'll meet on May 13th instead. Planning ahead: We'll have a Rectory clean up day on June 17. More in next month's Bellringer.

Rector Emeritus: The Rev. David B. Wayne

2006 VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden: Gerald Ardito Junior Warden: Ty West
 Treasurer: Holly Anzani Clerk: Chris Moore

<u>Class of 2006</u>	Terri Huntington	<u>Class of 2007</u>	Ellen Irvine	<u>Class of 2008</u>	Duncan Cleary
	Dana Garrett		Louise Levey		Laura Seitz
	Penny Morgan		Chris Moore		Loren Zack

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

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Dated material - please deliver