



Rector:
The Reverend Bradley C. Dyche
Deacons:
The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna
The Rev. Deacon Sharon Manning-Lew

May 2011

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

May 2011

1	<u>The Second Sunday of Easter</u>	9:00 a.m.	Rite II with music
		9:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
		10:30 a.m.	Children's Service
3	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
4	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	A Service of Light and Prayer
7	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Saint A's 5k Run/Walk to Squash Hunger
8	<u>The Third Sunday of Easter, The Reverend Deacon Keith McKenna preaching</u>	9:00 a.m.	Rite II with music
		9:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
		10:15 a.m.	Sunday School begins
		10:30 a.m.	Rite II with music
		11:15 a.m.	Sunday School ends, children join service
10	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
11	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	A Service of Light and Prayer
15	<u>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</u>	9:00 a.m.	Rite II with music
		9:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
		10:15 a.m.	Sunday School begins
		10:30 a.m.	Rite II with music
		11:15 a.m.	Sunday School ends, children join service
		11:30 a.m.	Adult Inquirer's Class; The Scriptures
17	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
18	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	A Service of Light and Prayer with Eucharist
		8:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
22	<u>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</u>	9:00 a.m.	Rite II with music
		9:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
		10:15 a.m.	Last Sunday School of the school year
		10:30 a.m.	Rite II with music, Sunday School Appreciation Day
		11:30 a.m.	Picnic to celebrate Sunday School Appreciation Day
		11:30 a.m.	Adult Inquirer's Class; Church History to the Reformation
24	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
25	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	A Service of Light and Prayer
29	<u>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</u>	9:00 a.m.	Rite II with music
		9:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
		10:30 a.m.	Rite II with music
		11:30 a.m.	Adult Inquirer's Class; The Reformation and Beyond
31	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class

June 2011

1	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	A Service of Light and Prayer
3	Friday	9:00 a.m. to Noon	Junefest!
4	Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Junefest!
5	<u>The Seventh Sunday of Easter</u>		

An Easter-ish Prayer!

One of my favorite prayers in the *Book of Common Prayer* is the General Thanksgiving on page 836. I have sometimes (though don't tell the bishop) used it as a post-communion prayer at church. After all, the word *Eucharist* literally means "thanksgiving", so it seems appropriate. But in the spirit of Easter and new life, I commend it to your use. It begins as you would think a "General Thanksgiving" should. It offers "thanks and praise for all that you have done for us." But then it gets more interesting. It includes the petition, "We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone."

Now, I don't know about you, but my first reaction to the multiple disappointments and failures of my life is not to thank God for them. Cursing might be more in line with my gut reaction. Crying, another. And yet, I am moved by this prayer. It is interesting and profound that we would thank God for our failures. I confess that the phrase always catches in my throat a little, because I have to acknowledge that I am not Mary Poppins and practically perfect in every way.

From Matthew, after the Resurrection, "When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them... and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.'"

This reading, like the General Thanksgiving, perplexes me. If Jesus has all the authority in heaven and earth, why does he need some disciples to do his bidding. I want to say that perhaps it is because the disciples, not Jesus, were the primary beneficiaries of the resurrection. They experienced the forgiveness of God. They thanked God for their disappointments and failures that led them to acknowledge their dependence on God alone.

In other words, what if Jesus is telling the disciple, is, "You are forgiven. We are in a relationship together, us and God. And everything, even mistakes, can be an opportunity to love and forgive more, or not. Help make sure that others can see the love of God everywhere, even our failures."

Which is resurrection. We are forgiven and loved, and even our mistakes can lead us back to God. I include the General Thanksgiving for your use below. Much peace during this Easter season!

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Treasurer's March 2011 Report

Our operating performance is almost exactly where we had expected it to be in the budget we passed last December. Expenses have been slightly lower than expected in most categories as we continue to operate our church and other buildings and programs as prudently as possible. Revenues have also been fairly close to our budget. Current Year Pledges are slightly behind the budget, but that is mostly attributable to timing issues in receipt of pledge payments, and is mitigated by better than expected receipts under the Mid-year Pledges category (pledges received after the annual meeting). One area of concern is the lack of fundraising events to date as compared to this time last year, when we had already hosted a Pub Quiz and a Chili Cook-off. Hopefully we can plan some fun and affordable fundraising events in the near future, which would help us show better than budgeted results.

Financial Operations through March 31, 2011:

	Expenses Paid		Revenues Received
Administrative	\$(8,299.57)	Fundraising	\$135.00
Priest	\$(23,047.53)	Plate	\$4,801.25
Service/Program	\$(6,982.64)	Pledge	\$35,576.50
Diocese	\$(3,922.43)	Space	\$2,350.00
Outreach	\$(1,555.70)	Investments	\$1,800.77
Property	\$(7,338.51)		\$-
TOTAL	\$(51,146.38)	TOTAL	\$44,663.52
(deficit)/surplus	\$(6,482.86)		
budgeted deficit	\$(6,347.75)		

Education

Adult Education Inquirer's Class

During the Easter Season, an Adult Inquirer's Class will begin. This is a class designed to teach the basics of Christianity as we know it and is offered as a preparation for Confirmation or Reception, which can happen when the Bishop of New York visits St. Augustine's on November 1st, All Saints' Sunday. The class will begin after the 10:30 service and will include lunch, finishing by 1 each week. Please speak to the Rector as soon as possible if you are interested in participating.

The Schedule will be as follows:

May 15th: The Scriptures

May 22nd: Church History to the Reformation

May 29th: The Reformation and Beyond

June 19th: Liturgy and the Sacraments

Then, in the fall, if you are interested in being Confirmed or Received, there will be two additional classes on Confirmation and Life as a Baptized Christian. During the program, a light lunch will be served. Each session will be about an hour. If you are available to help set up and host, please speak to Father Brad.

Centering Prayer Group

All Saints', Briarcliff will be hosting a six-week Centering Prayer group led by Betsy Roadman. All are welcome, at any or all sessions. Meetings are from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the following dates:

Wed., April 27

Wed., May 4

Tues., May 10

Tues., May 17

Tues., June 7

Wed., June 15

Parish Events - Outreach

Parish Work Day



Thank you and congratulations to all the workers for a great day! A special thank you to Mark Anzani, Lisa Cohen and Laura Seitz for all of your hard work and planning to make this day possible.

Carpenter's Kids Pledges



March 20th marked the completion of St. A's five year commitment, offering to Carpenter's Kids. \$50 Pledges for 2011 were due. If you need to know the status of your pledge please contact the Parish Office. Carpenters Kid's is a program which sponsors children in Africa orphaned by HIV/AIDS. The program provides these children with food, clothing and school supplies.

Bread for the World



Bread for the World's, Offering of Letters 2011, calls on Congress to adopt changes to U.S. tax policy that will benefit low-income families. Letters will be available on the table in the back of the Church on Sunday, May 15. To learn more about the issue and take action, visit www.bread.org.

Children's Mite Boxes

Our children are continuing to bring in their Mite Boxes. All the funds will be used to help purchase socks and soap for our Parish's adopted African AIDS orphans through Carpenter's Kids.

Flowers



Flowers may be donated in memory of or in thanksgiving of loved ones. If you would like to donate flowers, please choose a date on the new flower sign up sheet on the Parish bulletin board.

Fourth Annual 5K Run



The St. A's 5k Run to Squash Hunger -- May 7 - starting and finishing at Senasqua Park. Suzanne Smith, Ty West, Greg Kaebnick and Greg Cohen will be organizing. Volunteer sign up sheets will be posted in the parish kitchen. . Sign up to run at www.StA5k.com. For more information, contact Greg Cohen at Gregory.d.cohen@gmail.com or the parish office. Betsy Mitchell is coordinating cookie bakers for the Run. Please contact Betsy at 271-9591 if you can bake. We're looking forward to another great race. The proceeds this year will, again, benefit the Cortlandt Food Bank.

Sunday School Appreciation Day

Our Sunday School year concludes on May 22, 2011, with Sunday School Appreciation Day. Students and teachers will be honored. All children who have attended Sunday School during the year will receive participation awards at the 10:30 am service. Join us for a picnic on our lawn after the 10:30 service. St. A's will provide a hero sandwich, but we ask you to bring side salads, desserts, and drinks to share.

Graduations



Please let us know if your child is graduating from college, high school or middle school so that we may acknowledge them in our June Bellringer.

Thank you!

In appreciation for all of our musicians and Laura Ravotti on Easter Sunday. And thanks to Stephen Morris, Howard Cohen and Terri Huntington for their music at the 11 o'clock service.

Junefest 2011

Junefest hours for 2011

Friday, June 3 - 9am to Noon

Saturday, June 4 - 10am to 2pm

Sunday, June 5th during June Fest - 1pm to 5pm

Donations for the indoor sale (Household Items) can be accepted beginning Saturday, May 28 after Noon. *Nothing may be put in the Parish Hall until then as the Parish Hall is rented.* **Please look for sign up sheets in the coming weeks or contact the Parish Office if you can volunteer to sort and sell.**

Clothing Sale - Regina Hertl, Clothing Chair, is looking for several volunteers to assist her in the two weeks leading up to JuneFest to help sell donations on the lawn and to help hang clothes during that period. **Clothes are sold on the church lawn for \$1 starting on Saturday, May 21 through Saturday, June 4. Please bring your clothes donations from May 16 through May 30.** It is very important to receive the clothes as soon as possible, so that we have the best chance of selling them. In general the clothes are sold outside from 10am to 4pm daily, (weather permitting). Please keep us in your thoughts as you spring clean. We are also looking for clothes hanging racks since the flood has resulted in a loss of racks. If you are available please contact Regina at 271-1348 or regah@optimum.net.

Historically, the clothing sale has provided considerable outreach. This year, as part of a leadership Girl Scout Gold Award, Margaret Livingston has created a Spanish advertising and marketing plan using St. A's as the test model to expand the rummage sale to include the Spanish speaking community. If successful, we could have a very busy clothes sale starting May 21.

Save the Dates

June Fest – June 3rd, 4th and 5th

&

Saturday, October 16th –

Harvest Moon Dinner Dance & Auction

<u>Rector</u>	<u>The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche</u>
<u>Rector Emeritus</u>	<u>The Rev. David B. Wayne</u>
<u>Deacon</u>	<u>The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna</u>
<u>Deacon</u>	<u>The Rev. Deacon Sharon Manning-Lew</u>

2011 VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden:	Elizabeth Hoffman	Junior Warden:	David Wixted		
Treasurer:	Holly Anzani	Clerk:	Tom Eshoo		
Class of 2011	Lisa Cohen	Class of	Holly Anzani	Class of	Richard Olver
	Laura Seitz	2012	Kelly Jackson	2013	Chris McColl
	Leigh Anna Harken		Meaghan Shawcross		Thomas Eshoo

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

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Address correction requested



May 2011

Dated material - please deliver