



The Bellringer

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November 2005

Interim Pastor:
The Reverend Betsy Johns Roadman

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

November 2005

1	Tuesday		Election Day, Parish Office closed
		7:30 p.m.	EFM Class
2	Wednesday	Noon	First Wednesday – visit Sky View for lunch
5	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
6	<u>The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
		11:30 a.m.	Stewardship Pot Luck Brunch
9	Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	EFM Class
12	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer, Robert Ellsberg, preaching
13	<u>The Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost and Commitment Sunday</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I, Robert Ellsberg preaching
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II, Robert Ellsberg preaching
		11:30 a.m.	Youth Council
15	Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	EFM Class
16	Wednesday	8:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
19	Saturday	9:00 – 4:00	Diocesan Convention
		5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
20	<u>The Last Sunday after Pentecost, The Feast of Christ the King</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I, followed by coffee hour
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
24-25	Thurs.-Fri.	Thanksgiving Day, Parish Office Closed	
26	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II and Healing Service
27	<u>The First Sunday of Advent</u>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II

Please note: All meetings and classes are in St. A's House unless otherwise noted.

The Center for Jewish-Christian-Muslim Understanding invites area congregations to participate in the event, "The Spirit of Andalusia," a joyful celebration of diversity and cultural understanding from November 1-13. More information is available at www.cjcmu.org.

The Croton Interfaith Community seeks to respond together to the ongoing crisis in Darfur. If you would like to be involved in this effort, please contact the parish office at 271-3501.

The Seaman's Church Institute of NY and NJ is collecting and distributing Bibles in English and other languages to seafarers from around the world. Bibles will be collected at diocesan convention on November 19. If you have some Bibles to donate, please drop them off at St. A's house before Nov. 19.

November 2005

Dear friends:

In the spring of 1982, Larry and I went away to Connecticut for the weekend with a couple whom we had met at Grace Church in Manhattan. Reid and Linda had been married only six months; Larry and I for a little over a year. The conversation that we had over dinner that Saturday night was one of the most significant of our lives.

We talked about our theology of giving. Maybe because we didn't know each other very well yet, there wasn't that awkwardness that usually creeps in when money issues are discussed. We had all begun our married lives committed to tithing, but we discovered that each couple worked it out in different ways. One couple gave 10% before taxes, but the 10% went to both church and other charitable organizations. The other couple gave 10% after taxes, but all of that went to the church - any other giving was on top of the 10%.

We talked about why it was important for us to give a set proportion of our income. We recognized it as a spiritual discipline - an act of worship - to intentionally and regularly acknowledge that all that we have comes from God, and that we are simply returning a small portion of that abundance to God for God's work in the world. We talked about where we would like to be with our giving in five, ten, and twenty years.

That conversation was one of many. We had our first children within months of each other. Larry and I are Sarah's godparents; Reid and Linda are Keene's. We stayed in touch when they moved to North Carolina. They visited us when we lived in Japan. We visited them when they lived in England. We never got together without spending some time talking about giving.

In May, we were having dinner with them when Sarah called to tell her parents that she was engaged. Can you guess what the topic of conversation was when that phone call interrupted it? We were still talking about our varied experiences of giving twenty-three years later, with more to learn from each other.

During the 10 a.m. service on November 6th, we'll have the opportunity to hear from some of our parishioners about their experience of receiving and sharing God's gifts. On November 12th and 13th, we'll turn in our pledge cards. I encourage you to talk about giving within your family and even with your friends over the next couple of weeks. What has God given you as individuals and as a family? What is your heartfelt response? What might it mean for you to take a first, bold step toward proportional giving off the top? What would that say about your priorities? What would it communicate to your children? At what level would you like your giving to be in twenty years?

All things come from you, O God. We return to you what is yours.

Blessings –

Betsy+

Save the dates: Saturday, December 10th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. will be our Advent Quiet Day led by Brother Rick Loreno. That same evening, we will have a book reading and signing by parishioner Robert Ellsberg, with wine and cheese reception in the parish hall.

First Wednesday on Nov. 2: We will be meeting at Sky View Nursing Home to have lunch and fellowship together with parishioners living there. Please RSVP to the parish office by October 31, (271-3501).

Tour of Sing Sing Correctional Facility - Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison provides college classes for incarcerated men at Sing Sing. Staff and board members of Hudson Link invite our parishioners to meet with them at Sing Sing to talk about the program, get a look "inside" the prison, sit in on part of a class, and talk with the students afterwards. Please call Hudson Link for more information and to register - 914-941-0794 and visit their website: www.hudsonlink.org.

Parish News: We mourn the death of parishioner Michel Iskander who died on October 7. We also mourn the death of long-time parishioner, Charles Quinn, who died on October 20.

The Croton Inter-faith community will have a meeting on November 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church to discuss ways to work together in concert to bring the tragedy in Darfur to a conclusion.

Ossining Prison Ministry's volunteers serve donuts and coffee to visitors at Sing Sing as they're going through lengthy processing; work with children of inmates during visiting periods; and provide alternative clothing when a correctional officer determines that someone is inappropriately dressed for a visit. If you are interested in taking part in this ministry one Saturday or Sunday morning per month (8-11 a.m.), please contact Betsy Roadman (by phone: 923-3571 or by email: RoadmanBJ@aol.com).

On line news from the Diocese of New York is available to anyone who wants to receive it. It contains lots of information about what's going on in the diocese and at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Please give your email address to the parish office, and it will be forwarded to the diocesan communications director.

On November 1 the Croton Caring Committee's food drive begins and will continue throughout the Holiday season. Share your Thanksgiving by helping the Croton Caring Committee fill Holiday Food Baskets. Non-perishable and non-breakable items can be dropped off anytime at 38 Penfield Avenue on the patio. (A list of suggested items will be posted on St. A's parish hall bulletin board.) Frozen turkeys and hams will be accepted from Friday, November 18 to Monday, November 21 for Thanksgiving and from Friday, December 16 to Tuesday, December 20 for Christmas. "May Christ make us mindful of the needs of others."

Stewardship Brunch Sunday, November 6: The Stewardship Committee will make a brief presentation during the 10:00 service on Sunday, November 6. As we have done in the past, we have asked a few members of the parish to share their thoughts on St. A's and our parish community, and the Stewardship Committee will present goals for the calendar year 2006. After the presentation, we'll gather in the Parish Hall for a "Pot Luck" brunch where we will eat, drink apple cider and be merry! The following weekend, November 12th & 13th we will have volunteers available following each service (5:00 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Sunday and 10:00 a.m. Sunday) to answer your questions and collect pledges for next year. Thank you in advance for your continuing commitment to St. A's.

--Gail Wilson, Stewardship Committee

'Tis the Season: Our annual wreath sale is scheduled for Saturday, December 3. How can you help? Make bows, decorate the wreaths the night

before the sale, sell on the day of the sale and or help clean up the hall afterwards. Please sign up after church on the parish hall bulletin board), or call the church office, 271-3501. Bow making will take place Wednesday, November 30, at St. Augustine's House starting at 7:30 p.m.

Vestry Notes from the October meeting:

Stewardship - Stewardship Chairperson Gail Wilson spoke at the Vestry meeting. Our main goal is to use pledged funds to keep the church in operation, and to use all proceeds from fundraising, including June Fest, for Outreach. Gail said that in her opening remarks on Stewardship Sunday, she would address the hope for more families to make a pledge to St. A's, and that the amount we hope to raise in pledge funds is \$150,000.



Outreach - Chairperson Cathie Elliott reported that the Croton Caring Committee luncheon went well, but that in the future we will need more parishioners to help with cooking and serving the meal. Cathie said that St. A's was lucky because there were a number of high school students who volunteered, and that they were a great help.

Dana Garrett reported that the Alex's Lemonade stand that she and some other parishioners (including Youth Council members) set up at the Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger made \$400. The money goes to provide services at children's cancer hospitals around the country.

Parish Education - Betsy Roadman reported that the confirmands are finishing up their course of study, and that confirmation will be held on Sunday, October 23 and that Bishop Sisk would like to meet with them before the service. He'd also like to meet with the Vestry after the post-service question and answer period is over. She also said that there would be a Quiet Day at St. A's on Saturday, December 10.

Long Range Planning - Chairman Ty West suggested that we send the remaining funds from the Katrina Winnebago fund, plus the money made at Oktoberfest, to the Lutheran/Episcopal Services of Mississippi, which is the group the Winnebago is being used by. The motion was unanimously passed.

Buildings and Grounds - Chairman Mark Anzani reported that he had spoken to our boiler repairman, who said that he will get all the necessary work done to get the system operating by this weekend.

Vestry Nominations - The Vestry and Betsy had a general discussion about the need to get more people

to run for the Vestry, and Dana Garrett suggested that the parish needs to be told more about the specifics of the position, including responsibilities and time commitment.

Wreath Sale - Betsy Roadman suggested using a Saturday in November to make the bows for the wreaths, which will make things easier come the actual sale in December. Children of the parish could possibly make Advent wreaths while the bow-making is going on. Kim Westphal announced that the Youth Council will be holding a bake sale during the wreath sale in December, with the proceeds going to a nearby homeless shelter.

Search Committee - SC Chairman Mark Anzani reported that we are now officially receiving names for the position of Rector, and that we have received 48 so far. He hopes that the committee will be able to get the required list of 12 candidates to the Bishop by mid-November.

Respectfully submitted,

~Chris Moore, Clerk of the Vestry

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

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

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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