



august@bestweb.net/www.stacroton.org **October 2006**

Rector:
The Reverend Bradley C. Dyche

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

October 2006

1 **The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
	10:00 a.m.	Children's Eucharist
	11:30 a.m.	Eucharistic Minister Meeting in Church
3 Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	EFM Class
4 Wednesday	Noon	First Wednesday Lunch Holy Eucharist and lunch
	7:45-8:45 p.m.	Adult Education Class in St. A's House
7 Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II

8 **The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
	11:30 a.m.	Youth Council Meeting
9 Monday	7:30 p.m.	Outreach Committee Meeting in St. A's House
10 Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	EFM Class
11 Wednesday	7:45-8:45 p.m.	Adult Education Class in St. A's House
14 Saturday	11 a.m – 4 p.m.	Oktoberfest at St. A's
	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II

15 **The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I (followed by coffee hour)
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
17 Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	EFM Class
18 Wednesday	8:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
21 Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II

22 **The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	The Holy Eucharist II
24 Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	EFM Class
25 Wednesday	7:45-8:45 p.m.	Adult Education Class in St. A's House
27 Friday	7 - 9 p.m.	PARISH HALLOWEEN PARTY in the Parish Hall
28 Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II



29 **The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	The Holy Eucharist II
31 Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	EFM Class

Stewardship 2007: Stewardship Committee Chair, Dana Garret, will be sending a letter in early October to all members explaining this year's Stewardship campaign. On October 22nd, Fr. Brad's sermon will deal with Stewardship themes and then on October 29th, Dana will be our guest preacher. Commitment Sunday and Stewardship Brunch will be held on November 12th following an address by our Senior Warden, Gerald Ardito.

An Excerpt From the Rector

Dear Diary: Month Three. The phones are still out, and DSL is completely gone. It is week three without electronic age devices. Could I ever live without them? How did my ancestors make it on the frontier of Oklahoma without internet? If I believed in demonic forces, I would certainly be convinced that our phone company needs an exorcism. And I have jury duty this week. Luckily, it is Tuesday in the week, and I have yet to be called in to make the journey to White Plains. But, phew, everything else is going well. We have moved our church offices downstairs, which works much better for us. We have a great Administrative Assistant here, and the parishioners are amazing. And I am learning about what this parish is all about. Month three: is this still the honeymoon?

Which brings me to this point. I am new to married life and the rector -life, and both feel like marriages. There are some things that I expected and others that I am discovering as new. For example, I knew that this parish was amazing and thriving. And I knew that we had positive leadership. What I did not realize is that we have outgrown the infrastructure of our parish life. I have said this, and I will probably keep saying this, because this means that we are changing. And change, even if it is good, can be stressful. But I am prayerfully convinced that this is part of my journey here: to match our infrastructure to our parish. I call this my hypothesis, and I am testing it out. In fact, the parish seems like someone who has worked out, gotten really healthy and suddenly does not have the right clothes anymore. And the bottom line is: we as a parish need to go shopping to find some good clothes!

As part of that, I have asked for some changes to our services. We now have announcements that are a little more streamlined. And I am thinking about ways to make communion less of a hectic and more of a prayerful experience for the 10 AM service. I have met with acolytes, and Gail Wilson and Loren Zack are really working very diligently to build some infrastructure with them. We have written a customary so that acolytes can "read up" before service and not feel anxious about sharing their time and energy to help our liturgies. This also means that I have been meeting with Sunday School teachers, Altar Guild members, and Eucharistic Ministers to both explore some new ways to make our programs better fit and to discern how we might go forward.

The Vestry will have a retreat next February to

think about where we as a parish are heading. We also now have an Outreach Committee which will not only be looking at how to give money to various organizations but also to contemplate, organize, and implement volunteer opportunities for parishioners at St. Augustine's.

And there are some other amazing things that are happening. On Saturday, September 30th, we will hold our annual Blessing of the Animals at 4:00 PM right outside the church doors. Bring your animals, and if anyone has a camel, I would really like to bless it. On Wednesdays in October, except October 18th, we will begin an Adult Education Class series from 7:45 to 8:45 following the book, *God in a World of Violence* by Diana Culbertson.

Then, in the Middle of October on October 14th, we have our 3rd Annual Oktoberfest. This should be a great party with fun music, food, and of course libations, and the money will hopefully go to Outreach. On Sunday, October 22nd, right after Church in St. A's house, I am inviting all newcomers to the parish to join me and a few others for a Newcomers Brunch. We will talk about upcoming events, unveil our new Welcome Packets for new members, and get to know one another. I hope to hear about their needs and what they hope to gain by being members here.

Dear Diary: I have to say that in my marriages (and how many main-line Protestant Christians can say, "my marriages"?), I am very content and happy. Croton is a great place to settle down and raise a cat with someone you love. And the parish is equally a community that serves one another and people outside its doors. May we all grow together in love, through our faith and hope in the future that we have together. And may we find the right clothes for this, our newly energized parish body.

Peace,

Bradley



First Wednesday on October 4 – We will meet at Noon for Holy Eucharist and then will share a homemade Chinese meal and fellowship in the Parish Hall. Please call the office (271-3501) by October 3 to RSVP.



**3rd Annual Oktoberfest
October 14, 2006
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Revelers and volunteers needed for St. Augustine's Oktoberfest, featuring traditional German food, beer, activities for the kids and music. Proceeds will benefit the Croton Housing Network. Sign up sheets are posted in the parish hall or you may contact Jenn at august@bestweb.net or 271-3501. Come enjoy a fun day with your St. Augustine's family. See the flyer in this Bellringer.

The Outreach Committee has been considering a number of organizations to benefit from funds or volunteers from St. Augustine's. Hudson Link for Higher Education is one of these. A tour of Sing Sing facilities and an opportunity to visit a college classroom and hear the men talk about the impact of these classes on their lives will be held on October 16. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Jenn in the parish office.

A Newcomers' Brunch will be held on October 22 immediately following the 10 a.m. service. Those of you who have come to St. Augustine's in the past year are invited to join Brad in a welcoming brunch. If you are new but haven't yet been added to our member list, please contact Jenn at august@bestweb.net or 914-271-3501.

Vestry Notes from the September meeting:

☛ Pledge revenues are down by about \$11,000 at this time, which is a cause of some concern.

☛ The Outreach Committee met on 9/11 and explored new Outreach possibilities, both in terms of volunteering and funding. The Vestry voted to allocate all the proceeds from the upcoming Oktoberfest to the Croton Housing Network for the affordable housing for seniors to be built at Symphony Knoll on Mt. Airy Road.

☛ St. Augustine's has received both state and federal landmark status, opening up possibilities for new funding for building needs.

☛ St. Augustine's has received \$475 in memory of Edith Parker, which will go toward replacing the ailing dogwood tree on the front lawn. The Vestry and Brad are grateful to Edith's family for the gift.

☛ There will be a Vestry retreat on February 3-4, 2007 at the Mariandale Center in Ossining.



☛ We are still waiting to hear from the Diocese as to the date of Brad's Installation as Rector of St. Augustine's.

Respectfully submitted,
~ Chris Moore, Clerk of the Vestry

Treasurer's Report – August report

The Church's financial operations continue to be strong despite worries about pledges, with total revenues exceeding total expenses for the year to date. Our expense position is excellent, with most categories coming in where expected or lower than expected (some due to the fact that our new Rector did not join us until July). Revenues are generally stable. Fundraising has improved dramatically after the most successful JuneFest ever -- \$21,575 in net revenues. The success is not enough, however, to offset the drop in expected pledges through the year to date: current year pledges are dramatically behind expectations by over \$11,000. Jenn Latham will be sending out quarterly reminders in early October with individual pledge information through the end of the third quarter. Although we remain in strong financial condition, a severe drop in pledge income could impact the church's ability to meet its financial goals for 2006.

~submitted by Holly Anzani, Treasurer

St. Augustine's is now officially one of the 80,000 parks, historic districts, buildings and structures listed on The National Register of Historic Places, the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register contributes to preserving historic properties in a number of ways:

- Recognition that a property is of significance to the Nation, the State, or the community.
- Consideration in the planning for Federal or federally assisted projects.
- Eligibility for Federal tax benefits.
- Qualification for Federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available.

Listing in the National Register honors a historic place by recognizing its importance to its community, State or the Nation. Under Federal law, owners of private property listed in the National Register are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose provided that there is no Federal involvement. Owners have no obligation to open their properties to the public, to restore them or even to maintain them, if they choose not to do so.

St. Augustine's has also been accepted for The New York State National Registers of Historic Places, the official

list of properties recognized as significant in the history, architecture, archeology, engineering or culture of the state and the nation. Saint A's is now also eligible for grants under the New York State Historic Preservation Grant Program.

2006 Pledges Update: As mentioned in the monthly financial report, St. A's is experiencing a large deficit with respect to the pledge income expected for 2006. Actual pledges received by the stewardship committee totaled roughly \$125,000. Annualizing the pledges made results in an expectation of receiving roughly \$10,400 per month, or \$83,000 in pledge income through the end of August. Our actual receipts for that time period are only \$72,000, meaning that \$11,000 of money that had been pledged by parishioners has yet to be received. Since we budget on a balanced-budget basis (total revenues for the year approximately equal to total expenditures), all revenues in the budget are needed for St. A's to meet its expected operating expenses for the year. Due to our management of expenses, we are in excellent financial position, despite the lag in receipt of pledges for the year to date. If this lag continues, however, St. A's may have to make some tough decisions regarding its programs for the remainder of the year.

Easter Week at Christ Church, Mississippi? We are beginning to plan for a possible hurricane relief trip to Bay St. Louis during the week of April 2nd. This will be open to parishioners age 12 or older. See the sign up sheet in the Parish Hall.

Are you a Babysitter? All parishioners age 12 or older who are interested in babysitting during Sunday 10 a.m. service should contact Jane Bernz (962 -2499 or mykids249@aol.com) to be added to our babysitter list. Babysitters will be scheduled as pairs for each Sunday, so if you would like to have a permanent partner please let Jane know. Each babysitter is paid \$10 per service.



Help Wanted: Finance Committee: The Finance Committee is looking for additions to its current membership of five. Generally, the Committee meets as

needed, and attempt s to meet quarterly. Responsibilities include review o f the monthly financial operations of the Church, decisions regarding the investment of the Church financial assets, and formation of the annual operating budget. If this sounds of interest to you, please contact either Dana Garrett, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, at 271-6454, or Holly Anzani, Treasurer, at 271-3371. Many hands make light work!

Phelps Memorial Hospital Center announces its Chaplain Training Program. The program is designed to prepare lay or ordained volunteers to minister to patients and visitors in the Hospital. In a supervised setting, with peer support, the chaplains-in-training will learn about hospital care, about themselves as pastors, and with study and practice, about the theology and skills of pastoral care in an interfaith setting. For more information about the program, please contact the parish office.

The following is a statement by Bishop Mark S. Sisk, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York concerning the IRS and All Saints Church, Pasadena, California, Diocese of Los Angeles.

Bishop Mark Sisk: "I want to express my unequivocal support for the position of the Rector and Vestry of All Saints Church, Pasadena California as they resist the attempt of the Internal Revenue Service to silence them. Clearly the power to tax is the power to destroy. And, just as clearly, the Gospel we follow as Christians calls us to speak out on behalf of the poor and the oppressed wherever they may be, and on behalf of peace wherever there is violence. We are called to speak to the seats of power within our society, and beyond it, with all the courage and clarity we can muster. Indeed our society depends on such voices to maintain its integrity. Any attempt to silence such a witness by any religious group or by any part of our community, works to the detriment of the common good and is to be opposed by all those who cherish the costly freedom we have so long enjoyed."

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; **The Installation of The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche**
; **as Rector of St. Augustine's set for Sunday,**
; **November 5, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.** The Rt. Rev.
; Catherine S. Roskam will be at St. A's on
; Sunday, November 5 to preside over Fr. Brad's
; installation. Sunday services will be changed to
; accommodate this schedule. A gala reception will
; follow the 4:00 service. A more formal
; announcement will be coming in the near future.
; Please look for details in the November
; Bellringer, in upcoming bulletins and on our
; website www.stacroton.org.
;

PARISH HALLOWEEN PARTY
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 7 - 9 P.M.

Costume Contest

Prizes

Games

Arts and Crafts

Food

Come on ne, come all. Volunteers needed: set up, games, food, cleanup. Please call Kristi and Ed Godek: 271-0843.



ALL TREATS! NO TRICKS!



Rector The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche
Rector Emeritus: The Rev. David B. Wayne

2006 VESTRY MEMBERS

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

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

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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