



The Bellringer

E-mail: august@bestweb.net Website: www.stacroton.org October 2008

Rector:
The Reverend Bradley C. Dyche
Priest Associate:
The Rev. Dr. Beth Glover
Deacon:
The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna

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

October 2008

1	Wednesday	Noon	First Wednesday Lunch - Holy Eucharist and lunch
3	Friday	6:30 p.m.	Prepare meals for CCC – Parish Kitchen
4	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Croton Caring Committee Luncheon
		2:30 p.m.	Mississippi Trip Meeting – Trinity Church, Ossining
5	<u>The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost</u>		
		9:00 a.m.	Rite II with music
		10:30 a.m.	First Children's Eucharist
		11:10 a.m.	Sunday School ends, children join service
		11:30 a.m.	Block 2 Sunday School Teacher Training
		9:45 a.m.	Newcomer's Brunch between services
		4:30 p.m.	Blessing of the animals in honor of St. Francis
		5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
7	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
11	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Trip to Heifer International
12	<u>The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost</u>		
		9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer with music
		10:15 a.m.	Sunday School begins
		10:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer with music
		11:10 a.m.	Sunday School ends, children join service
		5:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
13	Monday		Office Closed – Columbus Day
14	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
15	Wednesday	8:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
19	<u>The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost</u>		
		9:00 a.m.	Rite II with music
		10:15 a.m.	Sunday School begins
		10:30 a.m.	Rite II with music
		11:10 a.m.	Sunday School ends, children join service
		11:30 a.m.	Harry Chapin Run – meet in front of church
		5:00 p.m.	Rite II service
21	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
24	Friday	7 - 9 p.m.	PARISH HALLOWEEN PARTY in the Parish Hall
26	<u>The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost</u>		
		9:00 a.m.	Rite II with music
		10:15 a.m.	Sunday School begins
		10:30 a.m.	Rite II with music
		11:10 a.m.	Sunday School ends, children join service
		11:15 a.m.	Adult Education with Deacon Keith McKenna
		5:00 p.m.	Rite II service
		6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class – Parish House
28	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM Class

From the Rector, October 2008

A few years ago, I had a conversation with a man who was a high-ranking executive at an investment bank, an investment bank which is now defunct. It was December, and he gave me this account (pardon the pun) of recent activity at his bank. Apparently, as holiday bonuses were being handed out, many of the mid-level managers were extremely upset. Their bonuses were *only* in the range of \$200,000, a range that could not possibly maintain many of the employee's lifestyles. The man listened for several hours as their grumbling hovered in the air. But eventually, he could take no more. He literally switched off the lights and told everyone in the office to meet him downstairs. Once there, he led all of the employees to a soup kitchen, where he invited them to work and serve a meal to some very needy people. Most of the employees did. And most ceased complaining.

I bring up this story NOT to address greed or balk at high salaries! The protagonist of this story made much more than his employees. Instead, I re-tell it because it points to a universal truth, one that we need in these uncertain times. When we're feeling rotten, underappreciated, and under-loved... when economically, politically, and ecologically things are heating up, just as we need "a spoonful of sugar", we need to give of ourselves to others in new ways. Only by doing that, do we step out of our own misery and into the godliness of caring for one another. Only in doing that do we begin to see how much we have instead of how little.

It is easy to want to be rescued. A messianic 700 billion dollar rescue, straight from God and not the taxpayers, would be a heavenly thing. And yet, it is much more difficult and much more honest to realize that we are God's hands. And if we as people of faith have any hope for our world, we have to continue to invest in it, as God's hands. We have to give of ourselves in new ways.

Here at St. A's, I hope that we are. We have two mission trips on the calendar. One is a return to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, and the other is a home building trip to Nicaragua to help some of the Western Hemisphere's poorest people. We are again, participating in the Fun Run to help alleviate hunger and poverty. The Vestry also recently voted to become and "Open and Welcoming Congregation,"

meaning that we publicly state that we are welcoming to the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, and Trans-gender community. And we continue to seek the best ways to minister to our own faithful, going into the second month of our new schedule.

We are facing new times here in Croton and in our area. Many of our savings accounts and 401(k)'s, if we're lucky enough to have them, are dwindling. There is fear afoot, not to mention an upcoming presidential election. We cannot change any of these things, but we can change how we react to them. And I invite you, in the midst of all of this, to give of yourself in a new way! Reach out to someone else. Remember that you do have something to share with another person. Care for someone else. Whether that person lives in Nicaragua or Peekskill or your own home, reach out. You will feel better! And you will be part of the resurrection of our world.

God's Peace,



*Harry Chapin Memorial Run
Against Hunger
Fun Run.*

On **Sunday, October 19th**, everyone in the parish is invited to join our Sunday School Classes for the Harry Chapin Fun Run, a short mile walk or run that raises money for charities that provide relief from hunger. It is an outreach project undertaken by the Sunday School program. Registration will be offered through the parish, and we will walk over to the site together after church on that day.



Financial Operations through August 31, 2008:

	<i>Expenses</i>		<i>Revenues</i>
	<i>Paid</i>		<i>Received</i>
Administrative	\$ (26,051.23)		
Priest	\$ (59,850.17)	Fundraising	\$ 27,079.26
Service/Program	\$ (14,816.66)	Plate	\$ 3,815.21
Diocese	\$ (15,072.00)	Pledge	\$ 94,288.57
Outreach	\$ (1,777.48)	Space	\$ 3,026.25
Property	\$ (19,539.62)	Investments	\$ 6,196.80
TOTAL	\$ (137,107.15)	TOTAL	\$ 134,406.09
(deficit)/surplus	\$ (2,701.06)		
budgeted deficit	\$ 1,512.28		

Treasurer's Report: Expenses are in line with or better than expectations for the first eight months of 2008. Revenues, however, have deteriorated since the last report. Despite the excellent results from this year's JuneFest (a record JuneFest with just over \$23,000 in net revenue v. the \$21,000 contained in the budget) we have generated an operating deficit.

Pledge income is the main reason for the deterioration in financial position – pledges received to date are currently less than the amount in the budget by over \$10,000. A portion of that is attributable to the fact that total pledges made by parishioners were less than contained in the 2008 budget, but also due to a reduction in attendance during the summer months. Hopefully this deficit will be eliminated by an increase in attendance as Sunday school reopens for the year.

Stewardship Committee:

Stewardship Kickoff: The Stewardship Committee Chair, Dana Garrett, will be sending a letter in early October to all members explaining this year's Stewardship campaign. The theme this year is "Faith in the midst of fear." **October 26th**, Ed Godek will be preaching at the 9:00 and 10:30 service about Stewardship. On **November 9th**, Father Brad's sermon will deal with Stewardship themes. Commitment Sunday and a Stewardship Brunch will be held on **November 16th**.

***Croton Caring
Committee Luncheon:***

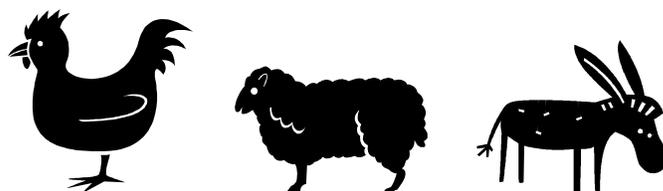
St A's is again hosting the next luncheon of the program year for the Croton Caring Committee on **Saturday, October 4th**. We are completely responsible for this event, planning the menu, purchasing the food, preparing and cooking the meal, setting up, serving, entertaining and cleaning up. For many of the elderly people who attend, it is their social outing for the month. Volunteers are needed to help coordinate and participate. We will be cooking on **Friday evening, October 3**, from 6 pm. until finished, and then from 10:30 a.m. on **Saturday the 4th**, there is set up, heating food, greeting guests, serving lunch, chatting with attendees and cleaning up. Volunteers are also needed for baking brownies for dessert (if you do not have time to participate in any other way). Please consider signing up for some time during this fun event. For more information, call Cathie Elliott 271 - 9522.

***First Wednesday
October 1st***

We will meet at Noon for Holy Eucharist and then will share a meal and fellowship in the Parish Hall. Please RSVP the office (271-3501) by September 30th.

***Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, Oct 5th - 4:30 p.m***

Bring your animals for a quick blessing by Father Brad in front of the church. This service honors St. Francis of Assisi and all who love creation.



Vestry Notes

- ♥ Discernment and implementation Committee: The new service schedule is going well. There is a meeting on Sept 28th with the congregation to discuss the recent changes.
- ♥ Space rental fees for the Parish Hall will increase beginning September 2008.

Processional Cross

You may have noticed that the Processional Cross is not the same cross that we used in the past. Our cross was shipped to CM Almy for repairs and they determined that the cross is irreparable. In honor of Jack Cooper we have established a memorial fund that will purchase a new Processional Cross in Jack's memory. Donations can be made out to St. Augustine's with memorial written in the memo section of the check.

Gently worn men's suits

Deacon Keith McKenna is collecting gently worn men's suits for distribution to the prisoners at Sing Sing. If you have a suit you can donate please drop it off at the Parish Office at anytime.



Adult Education

Deacon Keith, our Deacon, will be holding a program on **Sunday, October 26th**. The topic is our Patron, Augustine of Canterbury, the First Archbishop of Canterbury. He was much more than that; he also was a diplomat, negotiator, and mediator, and in dicey times at that. Augustine was a major participant in a series of councils that addressed huge issues facing the Church (Roman) as it tried to engage with the Church (English and Celtic) at the end of the 6th Century. We will explore his accomplishments and his frustrations.

Heifer International, 2008. High School and Middle School Students.

An intrepid group from St. A's and St. John's of Larchmont are on their way on **October 11th**, to go to Heifer International's Overlook Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts. While there, they 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, they 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. They leave on Saturday, October 11th and be back on Monday, October 13th, Columbus Day.

Sunday School Notes:

First Children's Service: October 5th at the 10:30 a.m service.

Reminder: Sunday, October 5th at 11:30 am Block Two teacher training in the Parish House.



Book Group Notes:

The following meeting will be **Sunday, November 2nd**; the book to be discussed is *Goodbye and Amen* by Beth Gutcheon. We will have a great treat as the author herself will be participating in our discussion. Both will be after the 10:30 AM service in the parish house. Everyone is invited. If you are interested in leading either discussion group please contact Kim or Brad in the Parish office.

Mississippi Trip Meeting

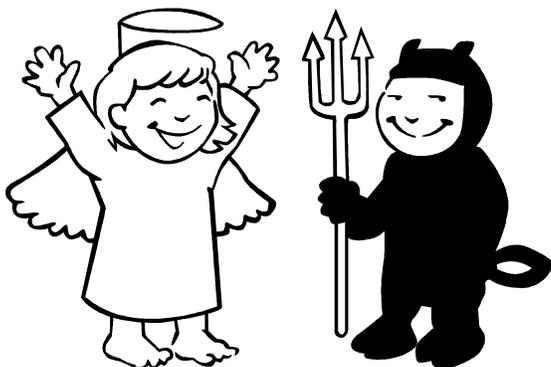
RESCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH at Trinity Church, Ossining. The return to Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi is again being planned for Christmas Week, Dec 26, 2008- Jan 2, 2009. It is once again open to those 16 and older. Younger volunteers may come if they bring along a parent or guardian. Total costs are currently expected to run between \$550-\$600 per person. More details to follow. All those interested in more information should send Ty an email at Westt@thirteen.org.

Nicaragua Trip Speaker

Representatives from Bridges to Community will be presenting information about their programs at the **Sunday, Oct 19th** 9:00 am and 10:30 am services and will be available during coffee hour to answer questions.

Halloween Party
Friday, October 24th
7:00 - 9:00 pm

St. A's will hold its annual Halloween Party Friday, **October 24th**. Children of all ages are welcome to dress in costume and come enjoy games, refreshments and an arts and crafts project. We still need volunteers to help with food, decorating and arts and crafts. Please call the church office (271-3501) or Ed and Kristi Godek (271-0843) if you would like to help.

**NOVEMBER LOOK AHEAD*****EFM Meetings***

Tuesdays, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, 7 pm - 9 pm

First Wednesday

Wednesday, 5th, 12:00

Commitment Sunday Brunch

Sunday, 16th

Vestry meeting

Wednesday, 19th, 7:45 pm - 9:45 pm

Confirmation Class

Sunday, 23rd, 6:00 - 7:15 pm

Office Closed

November 27 and 28th, Thanksgiving holiday





PARISH HALLOWEEN PARTY, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 7 - 9 P.M.

Costume Contest

Prizes

Games

Arts and Crafts

Food

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



ALL TREATS! NO TRICKS!



<u>Rector</u>	<u>The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche</u>				
<u>Rector Emeritus</u>	<u>The Rev. David B. Wayne</u>				
<u>Priest Associate</u>	<u>The Rev. Dr. Beth Glover</u>				
<u>Deacon</u>	<u>The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna</u>				
<u>2008 VESTRY MEMBERS</u>					
Senior Warden:	<u>Duncan Cleary</u>	Senior Warden:	<u>Duncan Cleary</u>		
Treasurer:	<u>Holly Anzani</u>	Treasurer:	<u>Holly Anzani</u>		
Asst Treasure:	<u>Suzanne Smith</u>	Asst Treasure:	<u>Suzanne Smith</u>		
<u>Class of 2008</u>	Laura Seitz	<u>Class of</u>	Laura Seitz	<u>Class of</u>	Holly Anzani
	Suzanne Smith	<u>2008</u>	Suzanne Smith	<u>2009</u>	Ed Godek
	Elizabeth Hoffman		Elizabeth Hoffman		Greg Kaebnick
	<u>Meeting Schedule: Vestry, 3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.</u>				

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6 Old Post Road, North
Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520
www.stacroton.org

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Address correction requested

The Bellringer
OCTOBER 2008

Dated material - please deliver promptly

