



# Bellringer

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September 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 (Office)

## September 2006

2	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
3	<b><u>The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u></b>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
4	Monday		Parish Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday
9	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
10	<b><u>The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u></b>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Block 1 begins
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
		11:15 a.m.	Sunday School Picnic
16	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
17	<b><u>The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u></b>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
		11:15 a.m.	Sunday School Teacher's Meeting
19	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	EFM Class starts a new year
20	Wednesday	8:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
23	Saturday	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Acolyte Training
		5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
24	<b><u>The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u></b>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
		11:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
26	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	EFM Class
30	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II



**Acolyte Rehearsal:** On Saturday, September 23rd, all acolytes, both prospective and old -timers, are invited to attend a rehearsal from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We will talk about the role of being an acolyte, do a crash-course training, and have a healthy, nutritious pizza lunch. If you have questions or would like to sign up as a new acolyte, please contact Brad in the parish office.

**Altar Guild** is growing! Parishioner Deborah Ramsey joined us in April and we are adding Robert Jaeger. Altar Guild always welcomes new volunteers. Speak to Heidi Lee at 827 -9266 or E Mail [hr11@westchestergov.com](mailto:hr11@westchestergov.com). Reminder to members: We are meeting with Brad on September 24 after the 10:00 service.

**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](mailto: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.

From the (NEW!) Rector....

In August, I joined some high school and college students to make my first, of many I hope, treks to Six Flags Great Adventure in New Jersey. I rode roller-coasters. I got drenched in the "Congo." And I ate a not-so-tasty 10 dollar chicken sandwich. Mostly, I had fun. But as the race towards Fall begins, I think of the roller-coaster Nitro. On that ride, as on many, there is a really long, drawn out climb to the top of the first hill. As we pulled out the station, the anxiety of what was coming pulsed in me. We inched toward the first, steep drop, and as I looked toward the horizon, there were the approaching, innumerable loops, camelbacks, and turns of Nitro. When we finally got to the top, I put my hands around the hand-holds and braced myself for something that I hoped would be fun and knew would be a little scary. It was, and I screamed (and invoked the name of Jesus) the whole way.

It strikes me that right now, in the life cycle of church, school, and work, we are also racing toward the top of a first hill together, and we can look out at the horizon. This year promises to be a ride full of thrills, and hopefully not too many chills or spills. Luckily, unlike a roller-coaster, we get to determine our course and decide where to go, and unlike roller-coasters, screaming is not an expected reaction, though fear might be. But September is here. The fast-paced nature of Fall is here, and I'm ready to grab onto my handlebars and enjoy the ride. Croton and St. Augustine's are fast and furiously becoming home, and I am greatly enjoying getting to know each of you. But as we inch toward the first drop, I wanted you to know some of the turns and camelbacks that I see in our future.

When I arrived at the Church of St. Augustine's, one of my first reactions was the realization that we are no longer a small church. In the interviewing process and my many discussions with parishioners since I have been here, I have come to believe that we as a parish have grown past our own infrastructure. By that, I mean that we are a parish still functioning as a small, struggling parish, but we are no longer a small, struggling parish. And we GET to embrace who we now are. Since we do not have to focus, as much, on simply surviving, we get to focus on thriving.

In an effort to live into our new reality, we are expanding our Sunday School Program. Thanks to the steady leadership of Agnes Leyden and other teachers, we have grown beyond our previous 3 classes, and starting this Fall, we will have five

classes, instead of three. One of those classes will be for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and will have its own curriculum. Also, Rachel Norfleet, Emma Wixted, and I will be working toward developing and choosing a curriculum for the following year 2007 -2008. With that comes a lot of new work. We will need more volunteers, and as Agnes Leyden has, after many years of service, said that she is retiring as superintendent of Sunday School after this year, we will need to rethink that role and find some person/s to fill her shoes.

That growth in Sunday School has necessitated the rethinking of our space. I have asked, and the Vestry has agreed, that we close the Deja Vu Thrift Store. This is something that saddens me, though I think that ultimately it is necessary. Kathe McBride, Caren Evans and countless others have helped to make the Thrift Store a successful outreach. Unfortunately and fortunately, we have grown to the point that we need that space. What was office space will now be children's classrooms for Sunday School, and the thrift store will now be parish office space. The entire upstairs of the parish house can now be dedicated to Christian Education.

I am also asking that we reorganize how we handle information in the parish. In an effort to streamline services, I have asked that at announcement time in our liturgies, only announcements about parish activities be announced. All other announcements, such as community events or other activities, can be posted in the bulletin instead of announced orally. Simply e-mail Jenn Latham in the parish office at [august@bestweb.net](mailto:august@bestweb.net). We will also begin periodic revisions of the prayer list, meaning that with sufficient notice, we will start over with the prayer list. Again, this will help us to streamline our services and make the most of our time together.

In other new news, I will be offering an adult education class on Wednesday nights in October and November. We will be discussing the short booklet, "God in a World of Violence," by Diana Culbertson. This highly directed class will aim to explore theology through the lens of an anthropology. If you are wondering how your new priest views God, this class might be for you. If you are interested in signing up, please contact the parish office, and stay tuned for more information.

Going into September and October, we will also be holding Altar Guild meetings, Eucharistic Minister meetings, and Acolyte Training. If any of these ways to get involved interest you, I hope you will join us. And on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a Newcomers' Brunch for anyone who has come to the parish in the previous year, myself included.

This parish is blasting off like a rocket or Nitro at Six Flags. Ultimately, though, I believe that a parish exists to help each of us become better people: to love more, to care more, to forgive more, and to be agents of God's peace. And the reason that we organize Sunday School, adult education, altar guilds, or even have church services themselves are to help us in that endeavor. My role is to help facilitate that. This is our Christian family, a place for us to nurture who we want to be. And it is exciting for me, and I hope for you, to be at the top of this hill, looking out over our future journey together. I give thanks for all of the leadership in this parish, past, present, and future, and like on the top of the roller-coaster Nitro, I pray to God and hope to enjoy the ride.

God's Peace,

Bradley C. Dyche

  
**Outreach Committee Meets:** The first official meeting was held on August 7, 2006. Future meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:30 pm in the parish hall. Our September meeting will be September 11<sup>th</sup>.

At our organizational meeting it was decided that Outreach would concentrate on two general areas; cash contributions and volunteerism.

As everyone is aware, one of the emergent interests in our parish from the parish wide survey was charitable outreach. Based on those findings the vestry established Ty West and I as co-chairs of this committee, and in our July meeting began to establish an outreach budget. This budget should be finalized in September. The consensus at our Outreach meeting this month was that cash contributions should be given to those deserving programs in which a member of our parish has an interest or is actually volunteering. Further, the sense was that larger contributions than those given in the past would be preferred toward specific programs or needs.

The second area of concentration will be actual individual and parish volunteer opportunities. We would like to create a database of opportunities for individuals and groups within our parish.

Do you volunteer regularly? Are there needs either man-hours or financial for your organization? Come to our regular meetings, e-mail Jenn in the parish office, Ty West or me. Let's put into action what we in our hearts have always wanted to do!

*Submitted by Penny Morgan, Co-chair Outreach*

**Eucharistic Minister Meeting:** On Sunday October 1st, right after the 10 AM liturgy, Eucharistic

Ministers and others who might be interested in becoming Eucharistic Ministers are invited to a meeting in the parish house. This meeting will provide information about how and why we do the things we do, especially as some things have changed with our new Rector. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Brad in the parish office.

**Vestry Notes** from the July meeting:

- Our new Rector, Bradley C. Dyche, began his time with us three months later than originally planned. This led to a surplus in the budget, which the Vestry voted to re-allocate to Outreach in response to the surveys taken in putting together the Parish Profile, which indicated that Outreach is a big priority for the parishioners of St. Augustine's. The amount is \$15,874.
- Father Brad will be meeting with Agnes Leyden and others to discuss the coming Sunday school year.
- Father Brad is working with organist Laura Ravotti and other parishioners regarding the future of our music program. Please stay tuned.
- Senior Warden Gerald Ardito and Vestry member Laura Seitz were voted by the Vestry to represent St. A's at the Diocesan Convention, held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on November 10 - 11.
- Father Brad has called for a retreat for the Vestry, to take place during the first week of February.

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

**Vestry Notes** from the August meeting:

- Outreach had its first meeting August 7, 2006 (see related story). \$200 was given to General Theological seminary toward the scholarship fund.
- Work has begun to landscape the New Rectory
- The physical plant has been surveyed for the animal infestation we are experiencing at the sanctuary, parish hall and parish house. A contractor was to be retained to rid us of this problem.
- A number of needs have surfaced concerning our grounds which may be appropriate for Memorial gifts. Contact Laura Seitz for details.
- The parish offices will be moved from the second to first floor on August 31, 2006. Any volunteers to help?
- Once the offices are moved, the second floor rooms to be given to the Sunday school need to be painted. Any volunteers to help?

*Respectfully submitted by Penny Morgan, for Chris Moore, Clerk of the Vestry*

**Sunday School Opening** - The 2006 -2007 Sunday School year at St. Augustine 's begins on September 10, 2006, at 9:45 a.m. Children between the ages of three and eighth grade are invited to attend class in St. A 's house. There will be a barbecue luncheon for everyone immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages, but **we ask you to please bring a salad or dessert to share.**

We are still in need of teachers for some of the classes, particularly pre -school and grades 4 -5. Please consider whether you can give a few Sundays during the year to this important ministry, even if you don 't currently have children in the Sunday School. If you can help out please contact Agnes Leyden at 737-5338 or [aleyden@ptonline.net](mailto:aleyden@ptonline.net) or.

**Treasurer's Report: June Financial Operations:**  
The Church's financial operations continue to be strong, 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 -- \$21,540 in net revenues (although this will not be final until all claims for reimbursement are received). The success partially helps to offset the drop in expected pledges through the first half of the year: current year pledges are behind expectations by over \$4,700. To a small extent this is mitigated by an increase in last year pledges paid in 2006 -- \$1,311 more than expected.

**Dates to remember for October:**

- October 1* – First Children's Eucharist at 10 a.m. service and Eucharistic Minister meeting after 10 a.m. service
- October 4* – First Wednesday
- October 14* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Oktoberfest
- October 22* – Newcomer's Brunch
- October 27* – St. A's Annual Spooky Halloween Party

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

2006 VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden:	Gerald Ardito	Junior Warden:	Ty West		
Treasurer:	Holly Anzani	Clerk:	<u>Chris Moore</u>		
<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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