



# The Bellringer

august@bestweb.net, www.stacroton.org

September 2007

**Rector:**  
The Reverend Bradley C. Dyche  
**Priest Associate:**  
The Rev. Betsy Johns Roadman  
**Deacon:**  
The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna

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

## September 2007

1	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
2	<b><u>The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u></b>		
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
3	Monday		Parish Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday
8	Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Block 1 Sunday School Teacher Training
		5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
9	<b><u>The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Back to Normal Schedule)</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
14	Friday		Group leaves for Heifer International's Overlook Farm
15	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II, Betsy Roadman Celebrating
16	<b><u>The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u></b>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I, Betsy Roadman Celebrating
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II, Betsy Roadman Celebrating
18	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	EFM First Meeting
19	Wednesday	8:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
22	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Acolyte Training
		5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II - <i>Presentation by the Discernment Committee</i>
23	<b><u>The Seventeenth 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
25	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	EFM Class
29	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
30	<b><u>The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u></b>		
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I - <i>Presentation by the Discernment Committee</i>
		9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II - <i>Presentation by the Discernment Committee</i>
30	Sunday	11:15 a.m.	Newcomer's Brunch



**Acolyte training and pizza party!** The acolytes are a group of young people who make a very important contribution to our church community by helping out with the worship service. All students in fourth grade and above are invited to join. Acolyte training for the 2007-2008 school year will be held on **Saturday morning, September 22, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** in the church. New as well as experienced acolytes are invited to attend. Afterwards, **at 12:00, there will be a pizza party** in the church hall! If you are interested in joining, or if you have any other questions, please call or e-mail Agnes Leyden at (914) 737-5338 or aleyden@optonline.net.

*Bon Appetit!* A New Year!

I have recently decided that my first year here was merely an appetizer. There was enough of a glimpse of this great parish to wet my appetite and to want to sink my teeth into something new, but it was not the main course. There were great kids, fun events, and most of all, great people. There were olives, cheese, and some great nibbles, maybe even an *aperitif* (or just a beer). But it was too soon for an entree. We had to find some way of blending the produce and supplies in my own personal kitchen with what was already in this church's well-stocked pantry. This year, I believe, we are heading toward entree-land, the heartier, fuller course. It might still be another year before we can honestly say that we are there, but new smells are emanating from the kitchen. As you come to the table for another year, a sampling of what is to come:

*Bruschetta with Bishop Roskam Visitation Tapenade.* Bishop Roskam will be making her bishop's visitation on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Children who would like to be confirmed the next time the bishop visits here (not this time) are invited to attend a one class session with Father Brad on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM and will be greeted by Bishop Roskam when she visits. All children ages 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up are invited. Adults who are interested in Confirmation should also contact the Rector.

*Fresh summer greens, lightly dressed with a Middle and High School Trip to Heifer International.* Additional dressing options include a *Mission Trip in December* and an *International Mission trip in 2009*. Not only do we have almost 20 people signed up to go to Heifer International's Overlook Farm in Rutland, MA., in September, we are also undertaking a third Mission Trip to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, funded in large part from the excess moneys that were raised in the Spring. This trip will occur between Christmas and New Year's. And, the Outreach Committee and the Youth Council are exploring the possibility of an international mission trip in the spring or summer of 2009.

*A Late Summer Heirloom Tomato, Peach, Apricot and Harry Chapin Run Gazpacho.* On Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 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.

*An Organic, All -Natural, Locally-Raised, Antibiotic-Free Discernment Committee.* Our Discernment Committee is in full swing, meeting every two weeks. We are looking at how our services are organized and whether we need to expand our building or service schedule due to the parish growth of recent years. To better do that, we have been exploring issues surrounding why our parish grew in the past 10 years and are asking questions about the likelihood for continued growth. We are also exploring with architects and others what might work well for our buildings and our parish community in terms of weekend services and facilities. It looks like our next step will include a parish wide survey, akin to the search process survey, to help discern what our next steps should be. Please be willing to partake. The goal will be to present the Vestry and Parish with several options

*A Sorbet Book-Group and Bible Study made of Congregationally Home-Grown Raspberries and Mint.* Several people in the past year have expressed an interest for a Book Group and/or a Bible Study, a way for us to explore various topics together. Ideally, we will talk about different pieces of literature, our faith, maybe even a little theology. On Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, after church, come to an organizational meeting. We will do a Bible Study based on the following week's Scripture readings and organize ourselves. And we will decide what to read, how we want to organize sessions, and how often we would like to meet. Bring suggestions for reading!

*A Delicious Ricotta Cheesecake with a Light Sunday School Sauce.* This year's Sunday School program promises to be better than ever. With Emma Wixted and Rachel Norfleet as our new Sunday School coordinators, each Block has a theme, such as: Who we are, Stewardship, Lent, and the Early Church. And, each block will also have an outreach project, such as the Harry Chapin Fun Run, a toy drive, and writing letters to prisoners at Sing Sing. The curriculum is also an impressive assortment of different ideas and teaching methods, so that this year, we will begin to see what teaching methods might appeal to our parish. We will then go forward with focusing on those programs that seem to work best here.

*And assorted dolci or sweets:* Just look at everything else on the Menu by reading the Bellringer. And everything here is good.



*Bon Appetit!*

**Outreach Committee Meets:** A lively Outreach meeting on Monday 8/14 got a jump on projects for the 2007/2008 year. This year we will be working in the Peekskill Soup Kitchen. Gill Mader and Robert Jaeger will be spearheading this effort. Our fund raising efforts were so successful that we plan to do a mission trip to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi in December; this time building a house. Call Ty West for more information. Finally, give the parish office a call if you are interested in joining a committee to start research for an international mission trip in 2009 that would include high school students.

**Ushers Meeting:** On Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup>, right after the 10 AM liturgy, those who are already Ushers and those who are interested in becoming Ushers are invited to a meeting in the parish house. This meeting will provide information about Ushering for prospective ushers, and work out some finer points, namely coordinating with Sunday School, for existing Ushers. If you are interested, or have questions, please contact Brad in the parish office.

**Vestry Notes** from the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting:

- Buildings and Grounds - The Vestry approved \$10,000 for the purpose of replacing fascia boards, soffiting, caulking and old wire mesh and foam on the church and Parish Hall, as well as priming and repainting those areas. We have had ongoing pest infestation problems, and the Diocesan Property Support Chair, Michael Rebbick, told us the problem would repeat itself until the fascia and soffits are replaced. This will hopefully end the problem, once and for all.
- A new policy was adopted regarding the St. Francis Memorial Garden: the Garden, which has spaces reserved for the interment of ashes, has previously had an unofficial policy of not accepting urns with the ashes, due to space needs. That policy is now official.

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

**Sunday School Opening** - The 2007-2008 Sunday School year at St. Augustine's begins on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at 9:45 a.m. Children between the ages of three and eighth grade are invited to attend class in St. A's Parish 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.**

**Classes taught by our Deacon:**

We hope you will all join Deacon Keith in four adult education offerings in 2007-2008. Sessions are right after the 10 AM service, location to be announced.

The first offering will be an exploration of **Celtic Christianity** and the special expressions of spirituality associated with that unique culture, especially as it arose to Rome's attention when Christians in those damp and distant isles seemed not quite in sync with a rising orthodoxy.

The dates for this presentation will be **October 28** and **November 4**, the end of the season of Lughnasadh (the harvest) and the coming on of the season of Samhain (winter). These two Sundays span the date of All Saints Day, when, in the Celtic way of thinking, the veil between this world and the next might briefly part a bit, and a vision of what lies beyond might just be possible.

In Lent we will offer a series on the **Wonderful Women called Mary**. Are there three of them standing at the foot of the cross (Gospel of John) or four? We know that one of them is Mary, the Mother of God, and that another is Mary Magdalen. Is one of the others Mary of Bethany? Is one of them the Mary that Martha complained about? The important thing is that they all played major leadership roles in the central events of the Savior's life, and in the moments of his death. In the years after the first century their importance was diminished, or sentimentalized, and one of them (Mary Magdalen) was trashed. We'll try to right the wrongs done them. Look for more on dates and times and places for this program as our plans for the year are finalized.

Eastertide, the 50 days between Easter and Pentecost, seems just right for an exploration of **Christian Theology**. Over two or three Sundays we will study, and discuss, and, we hope, argue, many of the fine points that arise in this core body of knowledge and comment coming down to us from 2000 years of scripture, tradition, and reason. Of special interest will be the theology of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, and we will focus on the unique understandings that wonderful event teaches us about our place in Creation and about the roles we, as Christians, are to take up during our lives in the world.

Finally, we think May 26, 2008 (our Patronal Feast) is a good time to visit the rich history and lore surrounding **St. Augustine of Canterbury**. 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 6<sup>th</sup>

Century. We will explore his accomplishments and his frustrations, and, in doing so we will come full circle back to our Fall topic, the encounter between forms of the Church that needed, in that critical time, to come to unity and healing.



<b>Financial Operations through June 30, 2007:</b>			
	<i>Expenses</i>		<i>Revenues</i>
	<i>Paid</i>		<i>Received</i>
<b>Administrative</b>	\$ (25,182.22)		
<b>Priest</b>	\$ (40,512.98)	<b>Fundraising</b>	\$ 24,360.53
<b>Service/Program</b>	\$ (11,190.84)	<b>Plate</b>	\$ 12,158.56
<b>Diocese</b>	\$ (9,686.00)	<b>Pledge</b>	\$ 65,191.00
<b>Outreach</b>	\$ (1,059.33)	<b>Space</b>	\$ 2,660.00
<b>Property</b>	\$ (16,146.60)	<b>Investments</b>	\$ 4,069.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ (103,777.97)	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 108,439.49
(deficit)/surplus	\$ 4,661.52		
budgeted deficit	\$ (5,143.66)		

**Treasurer's Report:** The Church's financial operations continue to remain strong for the first six months of our fiscal year. Expenses were generally in line with expectations. Administrative expense has come in higher than expected as we brought on a new Parish Administrator while Jenn Latham was still on the payroll in May, and we paid her a full severance package in June (we continue to look for a new Parish Administrator). Program expenses are also higher than the budget, due mostly to added investment in our Sunday School program. Property expenses came in lower than expected due to the relatively mild winter and a reduction in our sewer taxes. Priest also came in lower, since we had budgeted for a full year for an Assistant Priest, rather than the actual of eight months. Outreach was also behind budget, but this was solely a timing issue. Revenues were stable and in line with expectations for the most part. JuneFest raised \$20,922 (close to the \$21,000 in the budget) to date. Current Year Pledges have continued to dip below expectations, and we will expect this to continue through the summer months, when attendance is reduced. The Space Use also continues to fall below expectations, with revenues more than 50% lower than budgeted. As a result of all of the above, our current operating position is better than contained in the budget, with a surplus of \$4,662 as compared to the budgeted deficit of (\$5,145).

**Parish Administrator:** There is a new voice in the Parish House, when you call the voice that answers will be Kim Stucko, our new Parish Administrator. Stop by to say hi!

**Carpenter's Kids:** We are happy to report as of Oct 20, uniforms, shoes, and school supplies will be delivered to 50 children in Tanzania. St. A's is officially linked to a parish in Nagulo in the region of Mvumi, Tanzania. Can you find Nagulo, Tanzania on a map? Two Carpenter's Kid quotes after receiving a visit from Bishop Roskam's group in July. *We had disappeared as if we were not part of this world – but now we are loved, and This program is a miracle from God – what was promised – came through.*

Our first **First Wednesday** is scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will begin with Eucharist at noon, followed by lunch. Please RSVP to Kim in the Parish House.

**Student and Adult Confirmation Candidates:** All candidates for confirmation, both students and adults, are expected to be at the 10:00 am service on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, during the Bishop's visit. A pre-visit meeting with Father Brad is scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Please contact the Parish House if you are unable to make this meeting.

**Sunday School Classes begin September 9<sup>th</sup>:** If your child has not received a postcard or you have not yet received a letter regarding Sunday School from Father Brad please let Kim know.

**Are you a Babysitter?** All parishioners age 13 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.



Burgundy Alert: Tablecloths



**Missing since May 1<sup>st</sup>.** Last seen with a parishioner on way to get clean. Interested parties will not ask questions if they are returned to the Parish House. Tables are now appearing uncovered in public. Any help in recovering the above would be greatly appreciated. ☺



# Discernment Committee Seeks Your Input

From Mark Anzani, co-chair of the Discernment Committee:

You may recall that I mentioned in a prior Bellringer about the formation of a **Discernment Committee for Congregational Growth**. The purpose of this committee is to consider the issues surrounding how we may grow in size over time and what the ramifications of growth would mean for us (e.g. changing needs for physical space, possible impacts to services and schedules).

The committee has been meeting for several weeks and now needs to seek the views of the congregation in order to structure the work. There are several methods that will be used, with similarities to some of the experiences you may remember from the search process for a new rector.

The first request for information will come to you in the form of a **brief survey**, which will be provided to all families in our congregation. The committee and I will introduce the survey to you during services at the end of September (**September 30<sup>th</sup> for the 10:00 AM and the 8:00 AM, September 22<sup>nd</sup> for the 5:00 PM**), and we will distribute the copies via those services or subsequently by mail, to ensure all receive them. *We are hoping that you will show the same enthusiasm in completing and returning this survey, as you did for the search survey over two years ago.*

The compiled results of the survey will be used to form a view of the congregation's interests and opinions. We will report the results to you and will explore these results more deeply in face to face forums with you, later this year.

On behalf of the committee, I thank you in advance for sharing your views with us.

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## Sunday School Calendar Fall 2007

### St. Augustine's Church

#### **BLOCK 1: WHO WE ARE!** (Outreach project: Harry Chapin Run on October 21<sup>st</sup>)

September 9 <sup>th</sup>	First Sunday/Kick-off Picnic after services
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Sunday School (6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , and 8 <sup>th</sup> at Heifer International)
September 23 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Sunday School
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Sunday School
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Children's Service</b> (No Sunday School)
October 14 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Sunday School (Bishop Roskam visiting parish)

#### **BLOCK 2: STEWARDSHIP** (Outreach Project: Heifer Project Fund-Raiser)

*Teacher Training for Block 2 on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 AM in Parish House*

October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Regular Sunday School <i>with Harry Chapin Fun-Run After Church</i>
October 28 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Sunday School
November 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Children's Service</b> (No Sunday School)
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Sunday School (Commitment Sunday)
November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Sunday School
November 25 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Weekend (No Sunday School)

#### **BLOCK 3: CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** (Outreach Project: Toy Drive)

December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Regular Sunday School (Christmas Pageant Rehearsal)
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Sunday School (Christmas Pageant Rehearsal)
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Pageant Performance
December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	No Sunday School but children's activity during church

A complete year's calendar has been mailed to each Sunday School Family.

**Dates to remember for October:**

- October 3* – First First Wednesday: Eucharist and lunch beginning at noon.
- October 6* – Blessing of Animals in honor of St. Francis
- October 7* – First Children's Eucharist at 10 a.m. service and Ushers meeting after 10 a.m. service
- October 14* – Bishop Catherine S. Roskam Visitation
- October 20* – Carpenters Kids in Nagulo Parish begin to receive supplies
- October 21* – Harry Chapin Fun Run
- October 26* – St. A's Annual Spooky Halloween Party

<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. Betsy Johns Roadman</u>				
<u>Deacon</u>	<u>The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna</u>				
<u>2007 VESTRY MEMBERS</u>					
Senior Warden:	<u>Duncan Cleary</u>	Junior Warden:	<u>Dana Garrett</u>		
Treasurer:	<u>Holly Anzani</u>	Clerk:	<u>Chris Moore</u>		
Asst Treasure:	<u>Suzanne Smith</u>				
<u>Class of 2007</u>	Jeff Lawton	<u>Class of</u>	Laura Seitz	<u>Class of</u>	Holly Anzani
	Louise Levey	<u>2008</u>	Suzanne Smith	<u>2009</u>	Ed Godek
	Chris Moore		Loren Zack		Greg Kaebnick
<u>Meeting Schedule:</u> Vestry, 3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.					

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**Address correction requested**



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