



# The Bellringer

E-mail: [august@bestweb.net](mailto:august@bestweb.net) Website: [www.stacroton.org](http://www.stacroton.org) March 2010

**Rector:**  
The Reverend Bradley C. Dyche  
**Priest Associate:**  
The Rev. Dr. Beth Glover  
**Deacons:**  
The Rev. Deacon Keith McKenna  
The Rev. Deacon Sharon Manning-Lew

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

## March 2010

2	Tuesday	6:45 p.m.	Compline and Stations of the Cross
6	Saturday	6:30 p.m.	Chili Cookoff in Parish Hall – Set up 6:00 for chili cookers
7	<b><u>The Third Sunday in Lent, The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche preaching and celebrating</u></b>		
8	Monday	7:30 p.m.	Outreach Meeting – Parish House
		9:00 a.m.	Rite II with music
		9:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
		10:30 a.m.	Children's Service with Rite II Eucharist, No Sunday School
		11:45 a.m.	Book Group Meeting in the Parish House
9	Tuesday	6:45 p.m.	Compline and Stations of the Cross
		7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
14	<b><u>The Fourth Sunday in Lent, The Rev. Dr. Beth Glover preaching and celebrating</u></b>		
		9:00 a.m.	Rite II with music
		9:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
		10:15 a.m.	Sunday School begins
		10:30 a.m.	Rite II with music
		11:00 a.m.	Sunday School ends, children join service
		11:30 a.m.	Adult Education: Pilgrims in Our Own Land
16	Tuesday	6:45 p.m.	Compline and Stations of the Cross
		7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
17	Wednesday	8:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
21	<b><u>The Third Sunday in Lent, The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche preaching and celebrating</u></b>		
		9:00 a.m.	Rite II with music
		9:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
		10:15 a.m.	Sunday School begins
		10:30 a.m.	Rite II with music
		11:00 a.m.	Sunday School ends, children join service
		11:30 a.m.	Adult Education: Pilgrims in Our Own Land
23	Tuesday	6:45 p.m.	Compline and Stations of the Cross
		7:00 p.m.	EFM Class
28	<b><u>Palm Sunday, The Rev. Bradley C Dyche preaching and celebrating</u></b>		
		10:15 a.m.	Liturgy of the Palms and Children's Event
		11:30 a.m.	Sunday School Teacher Training – Parish House
		6:30 p.m.	House Church hosted by Heidi Lee and family

## April 2010

1	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Agape Meal
		7:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Liturgy – The Rev. Beth Glover preaching
		9:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Overnight Vigil begins
			Maundy Thursday Overnight Vigil ends
3	Friday	12:00 p.m.	Good Friday Liturgy
3	Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Holy Saturday Liturgy
4	<b><u>Easter Sunday, The Rev. Bradley C Dyche preaching and celebrating</u></b>		
		9:00 a.m.	Rite II with music
		10:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour
		10:15 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
		11:00 a.m.	Rite II with music – Return Mite boxes

## LENT, Ah, Lent from the Rector

Last year, on the subject of Lent, I wrote about Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." This year, I take up a similar "Christmas for Lent" theme by writing about another Christmas tale. For, "It's a Wonderful Life" is just as much an Easter story as it is a Christmas one.

If you recall, in the movie, George Bailey runs a small Savings and Loan. After many mishaps and a belief that his life has come to nothing, George contemplates suicide. Standing on a bridge, he is confronted by a dowdy, simpleton angel Clarence who shows him what life would be like if George had never been born. And strangely, because we see how much impact George has had on other people, we begin to realize how much we also each impact one another's lives. George sees that his brother would have died, his wife would have been lonely and alone, and countless others would have less than wonderful lives. The world was far worse off without George Bailey. And so, George Bailey has a "come to Jesus," or at least come to Clarence, moment. In a Frank Capra classic happy-ending style, George is embraced by his family and community, and he realizes that life is worth living.

Now, at this point, I could invite you to consider what life would be like without you. But that's impossible. We just do not know. I could also comment on the scripturally unsound portrayal of Clarence (angels are not people who have died). Instead, I want to pose another question. In the season of Lent, I want to ask what life would be like if Easter never happened? How would your life be different? Would the world be any different than it is now?

There are a whole host of answers, but here are a few. For one, we might believe that the power and love of God rests only in the most powerful people in the world, instead of also in those hanging on crosses, the condemned, the outcast, and us. We might also not realize that the true pathway to God is through forgiveness, and that forgiveness is more important than being "right." We also might not realize that God's disposition is more like Jesus' love for his disciples, even after they betrayed him, than it is like wrath. We also might stay in our respective tombs, whenever life presents unbearable challenges, instead of finding new life.

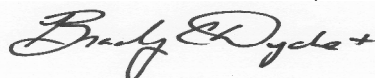
And to me, that is the sort of stuff that makes me want to proclaim that Easter means, "It's a Wonderful Life!" Because I can trust that God's love does not leave us when everyone else has (as Jesus experienced on the cross), and because I can have faith that God's love always brings new life, even when we hurt and abuse one another (or abuse God), I have the courage to love others and to embrace life.

Let's be honest, loving others and forgiving others is "risky business" (which is a whole other, unrelated movie). Loving requires courage and faith, and a willingness to not be right all of the time. And at least for me, the resurrection gives me the strength to do just that. I can trust that the love of God will always be there for me, if I reach for it. And even if I mess up completely, God will still come to me with forgiveness, just as Jesus did with the disciples in the resurrection.

There is a lot wrong with this life. All of us are still grieving for those in Haiti. But there is something powerful about knowing and trusting that just because bad things happen, that does not mean that God is not here. God is here. And like turning Good Friday into Easter morning, God is always working toward bringing us to a better life.

At the end of "It's a Wonderful Life," George's daughter proclaims that famous line, "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his [or her] wings." And during this Lent, I want to say instead that every time we immerse ourselves in the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, we more fully trust that no matter where we are, or how bad our situation is, we are in God's hands, and that there will be redemption if we hold fast to God's love and forgiveness.

God's Peace,



Brad

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## Last Month's Treasurer's Report

### Treasurer's Year-end 2009 Report

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We ended 2009 with a small surplus rather than the deficit contained in the budget, most of which was attributable to the success of Fundraising, the reduction of our Diocesan Assessment, and a generous year-end gift, and despite some unexpected major purchases at yearend (discussed below). We did an excellent job in managing our expenses, which also attributed to our improved operations. Additionally, we applied for a grant from the Diocese to help offset the added expense of offering music at both services. Our application was successful, and will help to reduce the music expense both last year and this year (receipt of this grant was not included in the 2009 budget but is included in the 2010 budget). JuneFest was budgeted to generate \$14,000 for operations; we actually made just over \$22,000 (we did not budget for a dinner and auction during JuneFest this year). Also, FoodFest brought in just under \$3,000. These three sources of revenue helped get us through the summer months, when pledge income dropped significantly. The dinner dance this Fall brought in \$9,600, of which \$9,000 was budgeted, and our wreath sale brought in the \$2,400 expected. Unfortunately, our office copier (20+ years old), finally gave out, and we have had to replace it at a cost of \$6,000 (it should last another 20 years). Shortly thereafter, the boiler in the Rectory gave out, and replacing it cost us another (unbudgeted) \$8,700. Not good news, especially since we ended the year with a \$12,000 shortfall in budgeted pledge income (the budget assumed receipt of \$130,000 in pledges, as compared to the less than \$120,000 that was actually pledged). But with the strength of our financial operations and the support of our Parish community we overcame those obstacles, and even

managed to replenish some of the reserves we used to pay for unbudgeted expenditures at yearend. The fact that we ended the year with a surplus, rather than the \$10,000 deficit that became apparent once final pledges were received was in and of itself a small miracle, and a testament to our support for St. A's and its mission and programs. The outlook for St. A's in 2010 seems much rosier than it did a year ago. The amount pledged actually exceeds the amount we assumed in the budget, so we will not have the prospect of a huge deficit hanging over our heads for the year before us. Having weathered one of the toughest years in our recent history (during 2009 we had to reduce programs and services and each employee experienced a cut in hours or salary, including Father Brad), 2010 should prove to be a year when we can attempt to regain that which we had to do without last year.

<b>Financial Operations through December 31, 2009:</b>			
	<i>Expenses</i>		<i>Revenues</i>
	<i>Paid</i>		<i>Received</i>
<b>Administrative</b>	\$ (37,678.94)	<b>Fundraising</b>	\$ 40,675.66
<b>Contingency</b>	\$ (9,000.00)	<b>Plate</b>	\$ 25,232.48
<b>Priest</b>	\$ (84,132.25)	<b>Pledge</b>	\$132,060.02
<b>Service/Program</b>	\$ (21,914.12)	<b>Space</b>	\$ 5,920.00
<b>Diocese</b>	\$ (21,877.00)	<b>Investments</b>	\$ 7,948.88
<b>Outreach</b>	\$ (2,749.00)	<b>Mem Funds</b>	
<b>Property</b>	\$ (34,257.01)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ (211,608.32)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$211,837.04</b>
(deficit)/surplus	\$ 228.72		
budgeted deficit	\$ (974.00)		

## Baptism

Are you interested in the Sacrament of Baptism for you or your child? Lent is an especially appropriate time to prepare for baptism. If so, please speak with Father Brad following the service, or call the parish office at 271-3501.



## Hosting a House Church Meeting

Would you like to host a house church meeting? At these gatherings, the host generally provides an entree, and guests bring other additions. Then, there is Eucharist and discussion. The dinners are usually light and fun. Suggested dates for the gatherings are Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday March 11<sup>th</sup>. **Heidi Lee will host the first House Church on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm. Nina Prudden will host another on Thursday, March 11th at 6:00 pm. If you are interested in attending, there are sign up sheets on the bulletin board.**

## Bookgroup Meeting

Our next book will be, The Help, by Kathryn Stockett. We will meet on **Sunday, March 7th**, after the 10:30 AM service. From Amazon: *Three ordinary women are about to take one extraordinary step. In pitch-perfect voices, Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women—mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends—view one another. A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humor, and hope, The Help is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't.*

## Easter Egg Hunt

This year the Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place **at 10:15 am on Easter Sunday, April 4.** Children will find eggs scattered around the property.



## Carpenter's Kids Pledges

We are in the process of compiling St A's 2010 offering to Carpenter's Kids. Pledges are due by March 22nd. Place your pledge in the offering plate with **Carpenter's Kids 2010** written in the memo line. If you need to know the amount of your pledge, please contact the Parish Office.



## Children's Mite Boxes

Mite Boxes have been distributed to our Parish's children through their Sunday School classes, and are also available at the back of the church for anyone who did not receive a box or needs a replacement. The children are invited to collect change in these boxes during Lent. All the funds will be used to help purchase socks and soap for our Parish's adopted African AIDS orphans through the Carpenter's Kids program. Children are encouraged to bring the boxes to Sunday School each week where they will be added to a larger container to be counted after Easter so that we can share with the children the total amount they collectively were able to raise.

## Adult Education: Spring 2010

led by The Rev Deacon Keith McKenna

*Pilgrims in their Own Land, the indigenous Christian Churches of America*

*Pilgrims in their Own Land, the indigenous Christian Churches of America*, led by Deacon Keith McKenna, **Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup>** after 10:30 service.

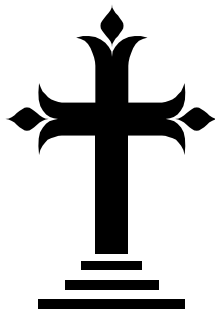
## Adult Education: Future Topics

In the Easter Season, we look forward to Deacon Keith and Elizabeth Hoffman leading a session on Church Architecture. The book group will be reading, "The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Burrows, and there will be a continuation of the course, "How to Read the New Testament".

Do you have a favorite topic you'd like us to cover in an Adult Ed offering? Speak to Deacon Keith or Father Brad if you have ideas for interesting topics we might pursue together.

## Compline with Stations of the Cross

Continuing on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and all Tuesday evenings during Lent. At 6:45, we will gather in the Church for a 15-20 minute service called Compline. Compline, in monasteries, is the last service of the evening, the completion of the day. Compline is often known as the most beautiful service in the BCP. It is a way of giving thanks for what has been and gathering ourselves for the following day. We are looking for assistance with leading this simple but meaningful service. If you would like to help, please contact Father Brad



# Easter Flowers

If you wish to donate Easter flowers in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving, your donation can be put in the collection plate, or dropped off or mailed to the parish office. There are envelopes in the back of the church. The suggested donation is \$20, but any amount is acceptable. Please be sure to specify the names of those you wish to remember, as well as your own and write "Altar Fund" on your check. ***To ensure all names appear in the Easter bulletins, they must be given to the office by Sunday, March 28.***

## Third Annual 5K Run

The 3rd running of the St. A's 5k and newly added Fun Run will be held on **May 1** with the start and finish at Senasqua Park. We will be having an organizational meeting soon and invite anyone who would like to volunteer to chair a committee (it's not as serious as it sounds) to contact Jenn Latham 248-0524 ([jennlatham68@yahoo.com](mailto:jennlatham68@yahoo.com)). We're looking forward to another great race. The proceeds this year will go to the Cortlandt Food Bank. Online registration is now open here:

[http://www.active.com/event\\_detail.cfm?event\\_id=1839082](http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1839082)

## Sophia Steger Performs

Sophia Steger will be performing at the Miller Recital Hall at Manhattan School of Music, [msmny.edu](http://msmny.edu), on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm. She will be performing in the Dorothy Hales Gary Scholarship Concert.



## Save the Date

Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> - Cabaret Night

June Fest - June 4 - 6<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> - Harvest Moon  
Dinner Dance and Auction

## Lenten Taize Service

***St. Mark's Church, Mount Kisco invites everyone to a Lenten Taize Service on Sunday, March 14 at 7:30 pm.*** St. Mark's Choir will provide musical leadership to this contemplative service of chants, prayers, and candle lighting. There will be no sermon or communion.

## June Fest Request

Regina Hertl is looking for several volunteers to assist her in the two weeks leading up to JuneFest to help sell donations on the lawn. If you are available please contact Regina at 271-1348 or [regahe@optimum.net](mailto:regahe@optimum.net).

Also, last year the clothing aspect of our outside sale brought in a considerable amount of money and provided an outreach project. This year we will again be selling clothing for \$1 per item. Please keep us in your thoughts as you spring clean.

## Come to the St. A's Cabaret!

Join us on Saturday, April 10, 2010 in the Parish Hall for the debut of St. A's Cabaret!

Tapas and light hors d'ouvres will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. (BYOB), followed by cabaret acts featuring **YOU**, our musically talented parishioners. The evening will end with desserts and socializing. *Cost: \$10 per person.*

Do you have a song or an act you'd like to share? Can you provide food? Can you help decorate the parish hall to give it that "cabaret" look? Please contact Agnes Leyden (737-5338, [aleyden@optonline.net](mailto:aleyden@optonline.net)) to volunteer or further information. Sign up sheets will also be posted in the Parish Hall.

Willkommen, bien venue, welcome!



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## ***Lenten Events 2010***

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**Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>** Annual Chile Cook-off! Not exactly Lenten, but a good time for all!

**Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30** is a **Children's Service for Lent**

**Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup>**, after the 10:30 service join the St. A's Book-Group as we read "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett

**Thursday, March 11, House Church at Nina Prudden's.** Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board.

**Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** after 10:30 service, Keith Presenting Adult Ed "Pilgrims in their Own Land," the indigenous Christian Churches of America.

**Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>:** after 10:30 service, Keith Presenting Adult Ed "Pilgrims in their Own Land," the indigenous Christian Churches of America.

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## **Holy Week**

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**Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>:** 9:45 Liturgy of the Palms in the Parish Hall. Children's Event will be held during the service.

**Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>:** Agape Meal and Maundy Thursday Liturgy. Enjoy a meal with friends. The church will provide some mainstays, and invites you to bring some simple, Middle-eastern fair for this traditional meal followed by the service. The meal starts at 6:30. The service begins at 7:30. The Rev. Dr. Beth Glover will be preaching.

**Maundy Thursday Overnight Vigil, April 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning** at 9:00 PM: Following the Maundy Thursday Liturgy, sign up to keep vigil in the Sanctuary overnight.

**Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Good Friday Liturgy at 12 Noon.

**Holy Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>** **Come to the Easter Vigil, the holiest liturgy of the year, complete with candles, a and a bonfire.** During this service, we commemorate the passing from death to life. Service begins at 7 PM.

**Easter Day:** April 4<sup>th</sup>, Easter Day: services at 9 and 11 AM. Children's activities will be provided during the sermon. Easter Egg Hunt will happen BETWEEN the 9 and 11 AM service at 10:15 a.m.

**Easter Day:** At services, ingathering for Carpenter's Kids Mite Boxes.

### ***Holy Week at St. A's:***

**Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>:** 10:15 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms in the Parish Hall.

**Maundy Thursday, April 1st:** Agape Meal and Maundy Thursday Liturgy.

**Maundy Thursday Overnight Vigil, April 1st – 2nd beginning** at 9:00 PM.

**Good Friday, April 2nd.** Good Friday Liturgy at 12 Noon.

**Holy Saturday, April 3rd, Come to the Easter Vigil, the holiest liturgy of the year, complete with candles, a bonfire, and incense.**

**Easter Day:** April 4<sup>th</sup> Easter Day: services at 9 and 11 AM. Easter Egg Hunt will happen BETWEEN the 9 and 11 AM service at 10:15 a.m.

<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>Deacon</u>	<u>The Rev. Deacon Sharon Manning-Lew</u>		
<u>2010 VESTRY MEMBERS</u>			
Senior Warden:	<u>Elizabeth Hoffman</u>	Junior Warden:	<u>Jennifer Brehl</u>
Treasurer:	<u>Holly Anzani</u>	Clerk:	
<u>Class of 2010</u>	Cathie Elliott	<u>Class of 2011</u>	Lisa Cohen
	Anya Steger		Laura Seitz
	David Wixted		Leigh Anna Harken
		<u>Class of 2012</u>	Holly Anzani
			Kelly Jackson
			Meaghan Shawcross
<u>Meeting Schedule:</u> Vestry, 3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.			

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 Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520  
 www.stacroton.org

**Address correction requested**



## March 2010

Dated material - please deliver