



Two Views of Lazy Summer Daze

In 36 Days: They'll Need Pens, Planners, Notepads & Calculators

It's that season when kids are focused on summer and beach time – and already schools announce just 5 more weeks of summer.

So it's the right time for St. Augustine's to begin gathering school supplies.

This year, more than in the recent past, students and parents are faced with the often overwhelming task of budgeting and prepping for the start of school.

We can help by partnering with Operation Attack in a new way. Most of the year, St. A's collects food which Operation Attack (OA) distributes. But now as school days approach, OA is glad to manage the distribution of all the school supplies we can bring them.

They've got the system. Families know and trust them. Our partnership with OA is an efficient ministry.

All St. Augustine's has to do is catch those 2 for 1 sales on binders and notepads. Watch for the advertised "Hurry in" values on calculators, planners and pencil cases. Grab backpacks and lunch totes at "Never Again Low Prices."

Bring your bags of goodies to church now through August 24th. If you like, add some dollar bills. It will all be delivered to Operation Attack.

And you can be sure that all of it will be used.

Hello Readers.

As you all know, it is summer. The days have gotten slower and the nights have gotten hotter. But something else is going on: if you came to church last week, you would have seen very few people in the pews. The population was only about 20 or 25.

People have decided that they want to play "Hooky". Some are on vacation, others just lying outside at home tanning themselves, or any possible reason.

Anyway, my point is, summer causes uncontrollable fun that our church just can't adapt to.

People are at the beach. Do we have a beach here? NO! But can't we still have as much fun as they have, without spending money? {Well maybe just a little bit of money.}

If you have any ideas, please don't be afraid to share. And remember, don't let summer get you!!!!

Cynthia Allen, age 10

600 Bishops: Indaba

Reports and resolutions are the things of Lambeth's past. Instead of plenary sessions and parliamentary procedure, the worldwide Anglican conference beginning Wednesday will offer an atmosphere conducive to bishops' thoughtful conversations across their differences.

Over 600 bishops will be divided into as many as 80 small groups. "The goal is participation on an equal footing, listening as well as speaking and," according to a recent article in *Episcopal Life*, "the emergence of wisdom and a common mind."

Those small groups will combine into larger groups called Indaba Groups – a Zulu word meaning "gathering for purposeful discussion in community." In July's *Episcopal Life*, The Most Rev. Thabo Makgoba says "Indaba offers a way of listening to one another about challenges that face our Communion."

In these Indaba groups bishops will address the environment, gender inequalities and violence, biblical authority and human sexuality.

A *Reflections Document*, expected to be made public on the last day of the conference, will be a composite of the bishops' Indaba.

In Florida, July brings its own expectations. Afternoon storms. Hurricane predictions. Higher a/c bills. Fewer tourists. More baseball.

And fewer folks in our church's pews. What's up? Some of us are traveling. Others may want to sample another church. A few are just sleeping in or going AWOL ("exercising our moral options").

Call it "summer slump syndrome." Almost every church suffers from it. The numbers can get downright dismal.

"Protestant church attendance in New York City this summer is so small," a *Times* reporter wrote, "as to excite remarks. Preachers who do not have famous names get scarcely any hearers at all."

Yesterday's byline? No, that article appeared August 3rd, 1901.

What should we do? We've had our Mass-on-the-Beach. Our grass is looking greener. Frs. Lee Jaster and Robin Murray are great pinch-hitters. So what's next? Offer a free tank of gas for every three sermons digested?

Let's consider this instead: If our church members are visiting elsewhere, maybe members of other churches are doing that too. So let's turn up the hospitality, St. Augustine's! With the summer heat, grim headlines and all the financial stresses, the folks who visit here might be turning to us for a better sense of "what it all means."

But they'll get encouragement only if we are here. See you next Sunday.

Tom Krug, over 60

Scripture for Next Sunday, July 20th

Genesis 28:10-19a James Corn

Psalms 139: 1-11, 22-23 Mordecai Walker

Romans 8:12-25 Louise Stroude

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43 Deacon Bauknight

Prayers of the People Pat Stewart

A Little Help, Please

Michael Griffin and his wife Sheila are asking our congregation to pray for their relocation to Atlanta. Michael says that the home they intended to purchase had some unforeseen problems and now they are shopping for another. "We need some new doors to open for us," Michael said by phone last night.

He also assured us that those health problems that had him staying here in the area for several weeks have all been cleared. On the July 4th weekend Michael returned to Atlanta.

Sheila is associated with Kingdom University, just south of the Atlanta airport.