

The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY

<http://www.stannsaftonny.org>

Member of the Chenango District

December 2015

Clergy The Reverend

Fr. David A. Hanselman

761-4601 cell

656-9502 office

Wardens:

-Betty Vail

639-1201

-Tracey Tallmadge

343-1301

In an emergency and Fr. David can't be reached, please contact one of the wardens.

From Fr. Dave 

December! Advent and Christmas!

Let the madness begin...

How about this year, we let something else begin? How about this year we demand a little more sensitivity? A little more caring? A little slower walk? A little slower drive?

How about this year we ignore all the ballyhoo over the supposed "War on Christmas" and "War on Christianity" and instead wish folks we meet to have a Merry Christmas, and this is the important part, if they do get upset with us, how about we simply and honestly apologize and wish them a wonderful holiday season, whatever the holiday might be that they observe?

You know, the most literal translation of what the angel and the heavenly host in Luke's nativity said is, "Glory to God and peace on earth to those of good will".

Good will is planted, nurtured and grows when we don't demand that others do what we want them to do. Good will is planted, nurtured and grows when we get to know someone and wish the best for them.

And because I am a sentimental fool who loves Christmas so dearly, I leave you with something that always brings me to tears of joy - the conclusion of Dicken's A Christmas Carol:

Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die, he was a second father. He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world. Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh, and little heeded them; for he was wise enough to know that nothing ever happened on this globe, for good, at which some people did not have their fill of laughter in the outset; and knowing that such as these would be blind anyway, he thought it quite as well that they should wrinkle up their eyes in grins, as have the malady in less attractive forms. His own heart laughed: and that was quite enough for him.

He had no further intercourse with Spirits, but lived upon the Total Abstinence Principle, ever afterwards; and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!



Anyone that would like to order a flower in memory of a loved one, the last day to order is December 6th. The plants are \$7.00 each.

If you desire Father David to visit you or give you a call, please contact him at:
(607) 761-4601 or
(607) 656-9502.

Service Schedule

| | <u>Date</u> | <u>OT Reading</u> | <u>Epistle</u> | <u>CS</u> | <u>EM</u> | <u>Acolytes</u> |
|----|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| HC | Dec 6 | B.Wright | D.Becker | AC | DB | B.Vail/A.Cimini |
| MP | Dec 13 | T.Tallmadge | R.Felldin | RF | ---- | B.Vail |
| HC | Dec 20 | P.Tucker | M.Harding | BV | DB | D.Becker/B.Vail |
| HC | Dec 24 | Lessons and Carols | --- | TT & JR | | D.Becker/A.Cimini |
| MP | Dec 27 | B.Vail | D.Vail | ---- | ---- | A.Vail |
| MP | Jan 3 | M.Harding | A.Wieber | ---- | ---- | D.Becker |

Morning Prayer:

Dec. 13 – T.Tallmadge/J.Rettberg

Dec. 27 - T.Vail/C.Johnson

Jan. 3 - J.Rettberg/B.Vail

Church School:

Dec. 6 - J. Rettberg

Dec. 13 –T.Vail

Dec. 20 – M.Kelly

Food Pantry:

Dec. 14 - Pat & Al Tucker

Dec. 16 - Heather/Robin

Special Thanks to all who serve

Note to all who serve: It would be most helpful if, when you cannot make your assigned date, you would arrange for a substitute. If you are unable to do that, please notify a warden. Thanks for your cooperation!

Lectionary (Year B)

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Psalm</u> | <u>OT Reading</u> | <u>Epistle</u> | <u>Gospel</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Dec 6 | 2 Advent | Canticle 16 | Malachi 3:1-4 | Philippians 1:3-11 |
| Dec 13 | 3 Advent | Canticle 9 | Zephaniah 3:14-20 | Philippians 4:4-7 |
| Dec 24 | Lessons and Carols | | | |
| Dec 20 | 4 Advent | Canticle 15 | Micah 5:2-5a | Hebrews 10:5-10 |
| Dec 27 | Christmas 1 | Psalm 147 | Isaiah 61:10-62:3 | Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 |
| Jan 3 | Christmas 2 | Psalm 84 | Jeremiah 31:7-14 | Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a |
| | | | | Luke 3:1-6 |
| | | | | Luke 3:7-18 |
| | | | | Luke 1:39-45(46-55) |
| | | | | John 1:1-18 |
| | | | | Luke 2:41-52 |

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duty – Altar Guild Altar Duty for the month of December is Betty Vail (639-1201), Grace Affuso (639-2961), Tracey Tallmadge (343-1301) . If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the Altar on a particular Sunday, call Betty Vail at 639-1201. If you are giving flowers in memory of a loved one, please notify Pete Vail (607)639-1444 no later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that he can include a notice in the bulletin.

In Need of Prayer

It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. A current listing follows. The names listed are not necessarily members of the parish and may include individuals or other requests for which we have been asked to pray. The clergy persons of the Chenango District are included. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. Send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 639-1201.

Carol Peter Joyce Mya Holly Cindy Lois Sally Clifford Richard Don Pastor Sue
 Andrea Adrianna Diane Judy Dakota Tommy Kevin Jan Steve Doug Micha
 Fr. Chuck Taylor Fr. David Hanselman Fr. Bruce MacDuffie Bishop "Skip" Adams Bishop Michael
 Curry Pope Francis Zion Church St. Paul's Church The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal
 Church The vestry of St. Ann's The Bishop Search Committee

The following prayer is suggested by Bishop Skip. It is from the Evening Prayer service in the Book of Common Prayer:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.

The season of ADVENT

“Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding. ‘Christ is nigh,’ it seems to say.” I loved hearing this Advent hymn as a child. “Christmas is coming!” it told me. I could not wait. But I had to wait, even while something of the spirit of Christmas spilled over into the weeks before.

“The kingdom of God has come near,” Jesus proclaimed. One can still hear a breathlessness in that message. The ways of God are so near that they can be anticipated now. The new time is already begun. The kingdom is not way off in a distant heaven nor in a faraway future. It is upon us and among us, even while its fullness is yet to be realized.

“Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day,” the hymn continues. “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” It is a time of judgment. *Judgement* may seem like a harsh word, but who would want to live in a world where evil is not judged and the good not defended and cherished?

A lot is happening during the Advent season, and a lot is about to happen. This is a solemn time of waiting and expectation, of hope and also fear. Are we ready for this coming? Are we already now beginning to live by the ways of justice and God’s love? Are we ready to greet the One who says, “See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work.” Are we able to call out with the Seer, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” In Advent we pray, not without trepidation, for the return of the Lamb that was slain and to hear the voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them as their God; they will be God’s peoples, and God will be with them.”

Advent may seem a welter of messages about already, almost, and not yet. Jesus has come, is near, will come. The kingdom is nigh, is begun, is coming. All this can sound mysterious and even confusing, especially to the linear-minded. But then, what else should we expect? This is about *God*. This is about the God who is the creator of innumerable galaxies and in whom we live and move and have our being. This is the God who is beyond all understanding, who yet draws near and even enters into human life—Alpha and Omega, who was and is and is to come. How can we do more than begin to know this presence? How can we be other than in fear and longing, in wonder and thanksgiving?

“Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding.” It is our task as preachers and readers of the Word of God, standing before the bright eyes of children and the cautious eyes of grownups, amid all the pageantry and gladness, the hopes and heartbreaks of our lives, to catch expectation and awe in our words and tell again of the nearing God.

By: Frederick Borsch



NEW WINDOWS IN THE CHURCH.

5 new church cellar windows were installed and should help with heat loss. The bucks are all wrapped with aluminum so no paint required. They also look much nicer than the old ones.

Vestry Highlights

1.

Kudos



THANKS! - Al Tucker, Ron Sherman, Duane Kane and Tom Vail for setting up the creche.

THANKS! - Many thanks to all who helped with the brass cleaning.

THANKS! - Many thanks to people who supported the Angel tree.

***Note:** If you know of one or more people who we should thank in this column, please pass that information on to Pete Vail or Jody Proffitt. We don't want to miss anyone!*

BISHOP SEARCH COMMITTEE

Father David has been asked to be on the Bishop search committee. Please keep Fr. David and the other search committee members in your prayers

A report on the stewardship effort

As of November 25, 2015, St. Ann's has received "intention" cards for the financial support of the parish totaling \$24,744. This compares to \$26,278 at this time last year. If you have not returned your card, it is not too late. Please put the card in the envelope that was provided and put it in the offering plate or mail to St. Ann's Church, P. O. Box 22, Afton, N. Y. 13730.

The Lord loves a cheerful giver.

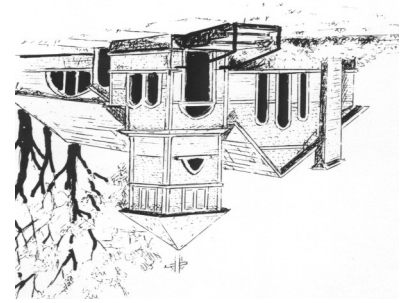
Thank you to all for your support of our Parish!!!

Pumpkin Painting



Join us at St. Ann's and stay for fellowship at coffee hour.

ST. ANN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Address label here

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Tracey Tallmadge

Wardens: Betty Vail

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR
COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY
AND ACTION

Afton, New York 13730

P. O. Box 22

St. Ann's Episcopal Church

The Final Word



Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ... But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:14, 18

(Reprised from 12/2008)

This seems to be excellent advice for us as we embark on the season of Advent with its air of anticipation, expectation and contemplation. With all the hype to decorate, buy countless gifts, attend loud, boisterous parties and prepare extravagant meals, how many of us can say that we are at peace and, if we are not, how might we experience that peace?

I would suggest that it involves setting priorities, or, in the words of our Presiding Bishop (PB,) "making some conscious decisions about how to spend your Advent time this year." Granted, there's lots to be done in the brief four weeks until Christmas but how much of it is essential? If it's important to us we can all find 10 minutes a

day in all of our busy-ness, pick a quiet place and spend part of it talking to God and the rest of it listening for His answers. Again, our PB suggests giving thanks for our various blessings. Or you might read the Scripture selections for the coming Sunday and let them speak to you. If you absolutely cannot find time to do this, try praying, praising and thanking God as you are falling asleep each night. I've found it's a great way to end the day and might even help you fall asleep! What better way to get away from the pressure of the secular world? Why not give it a try?

Our society emphasizes caring for our physical and mental health and this is good to a point. But what about our spiritual health? Peter tells us to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. How are we doing with that? In computer programming a common acronym is: GIGO which stands for "Garbage In= Garbage Out." Our spirit is much the same as a computer. What we get out of it depends on what we put in. How are you caring for your spirit? Now is a perfect time to do something for it!

Peace be with you. PCV