

## Sharing God's Love in Our Community Through Prayer, Study and Action

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY  
(Member of the Chenango District)

### The Parish News

[www.stannsaftonny.org](http://www.stannsaftonny.org)

The Newsletter of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Afton, NY

Clergy: The Reverend Fr. David A. Hanselman Cell: 761-4601 Office: 656-9502

If you desire Father David to visit you or give you a call, please contact him at one of the numbers above.

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

Wardens: Betty Vail: 639-1201 Tracey Tallmadge: 343-1301



*From Fr. Dave*

Christmas time is coming!

Not to be a downer, but it's simply a matter of fact that "Christmas" also means a time of spending. Though there is always a call for "smaller and simpler" Christmas celebrations, most people seem to frequently spend just a little bit more than they or their checkbooks are comfortable with. This isn't a message against overspending (though you should avoid it). Instead, I'm much more interested in "smart spending".

One of my hobbies is trying to understand different economic theories. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, economics plays a crucially important part in God's justice. Since we live in a consumer society, the purchasing choices we make are important. Changes in purchasing patterns have had some very large changes in the production of those things.

We are, however, constrained on the range of things we can choose. We naturally want to make good choices but we're also constrained by just how much money we can spend on those choices.

All of which is to simply offer up for you a reflection that if you're willing and able, Episcopal Relief & Development has joined with Equal Exchange coop to offer fair trade coffee, tea, chocolate and other items. Over the last couple decades, I've watched as fair trade products have become more easily accessible, more reasonably priced and more certainly vetted to help the small farmers it's supposed to help.

I'll have some informational brochures available in the churches, but as a quote from Rev Mark McKone-Sweet from Poway, CA puts it: "Each cup of coffee that we drink as part of the Episcopal Relief & Development Fair Trade Project honors the work of small-scale farmers and upholds their dignity while protecting the land they rely on. It also benefits an organization that we love."

Again, as I say above, we need to balance the things we want and our financial ability to buy those things. The site is: <http://equalexchange.coop/episcopalrelief>

Blessings to you and yours!

## 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!

Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Dec. 4	R.Felldin			Dec. 12	T.Tallmadge/B.Vail	
Dec. 11	C.Sherman	B.Vail	T.Tallmadge	Dec. 14	M.Kelly/G/Affuso	
Dec. 18	K.Vail					
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Dec 4	HC	A.Wieber	C.Cimini	AC	CC	Tracey/A.Cimini
Dec 11	MP	D.Vail	R.Sherman	TV	----	D.Vail
Dec 18	HC	R.Felldin	T.Tallmadge	RF	JR	Tracey/B.Vail
Dec. 24	HC	Christmas Carols & Readings	-----	----	DW	B.Vail/A.Vail
Jan 1	HC	B.Vail	C.Cimini	AC	CC	A.Cimini/B.Vail
Lectionary (Year A)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Dec 4	HC	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12	
Dec 11	MP	Isaiah 35: 1-10	Ps.146:4-9 or Cant. 3 or 15	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11	
Dec 18	HC	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25	
Dec 24	HC	Isaiah 9:2-7 or Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalm 96 or Psalm 97	Titus 2:11-14 or Titus 3:4-7	John 1:1-14	
Jan 1	HC	Numbers 6:22-27	Psalm 8	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:15-21	



### December Coffee Hour Sign Ups

Dec. 4 - Dan & Kerri Vail  
Dec. 11 - Ron & Cindy Sherman  
Dec. 18 - Denise & Amy Wieber

**Altar Duty** for the month of December is Betty Vail 639-1201 and Grace Affuso 639-2961. If you are giving flowers in memory a loved one, please notify Peter Vail 607-639-1444 no later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that he can include a notice in the bulletin.



*Christmas Eve*  
SERVICE

The Christmas Eve candlelight service ,  
December 24, will begin at 4:30p.m. at St. Ann's  
with Father David conducting Holy Eucharist.  
There will not be a Christmas Day service at St.  
Ann's on Sunday, December 25.

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia for Christmas Eve in memory of a loved one, please contact Betty Vail at 639-1201. The 6" potted plant is \$7.00. Orders need to be in by December 18.



Many thanks to everyone who participated in our brass cleaning session on November 6. Did you notice the shiny brass and your hard work the following Sunday?



Thank you!! to Duane Kane, Ron Sherman, Tracey & Calvin Tallmadge and Tom Vail for setting up St. Ann's creche



*Christmas Play*

The children of St. Ann's will be performing a short Christmas themed play on December 11th. during the regular Sunday service. Please try to attend and support our young people. They are one of the things that makes this time of year special. Merry Christmas!!

**St. Ann's Prayer List for December 2016**

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. Please note: Long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names for two months unless updated.

**Long Term**

Carol  
Peter  
Joyce  
Mya  
Holly  
Cindy  
Lois  
Clifford  
Richard  
Dakota  
Elliott  
Sasha  
Bob  
Sharon  
Bill & Linda  
Fr. David Hanselman  
Fr. Bruce MacDuffie  
Deacon Kay  
Bishop "Skip" Adams  
Pastor Becky  
Very Rev. Dr. DeDe  
Duncan-Probe

Bishop Michael Curry  
The Revs Ralph & Liz  
Groskoph  
Emmanuel Church  
Epiphany Church  
Zion Church  
St. Paul's Church  
St. Andrew's Church  
St. Matthew's Church  
St. Peter's Church

**Short Term**

Michael  
Gabby  
Cheryl  
Marsey  
Rev. Don Matthews  
Charles  
Kathleen  
Bonnie

**The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church**

**The vestry of St. Ann's, Emanuel, Epiphany, & St. Peter's Churches**

**The following prayer 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.*

## CELEBRATIONS IN DECEMBER



### *Birthdays*

01 Lexi Cutmore  
04 Lois Irons  
08 Woody Robbins  
16 Sandy Proffitt  
20 Dan Vail



### *Anniversaries*

05 Nancy & Dave Setford

Please send your birthday/anniversary dates to me @ [cttallmadg@aol.com](mailto:cttallmadg@aol.com) or advise me at church.



## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

### Vestry highlights Nov 2016

1. Received a report on possible update of sound system to provide better coverage throughout the Church, including the sanctuary.
2. Sent a contribution to the Diocese to help with the purchase of the "Bishop's Ring."
3. Voted to send \$200 to the Afton Community Chest for this month's outreach.
4. Suggested that Vestry consider purchasing a new de-humidifier for the Parish Hall. The old one is feeling its age and newer models are more efficient. Purchase was approved at the same price range as the new one in the Clothes Closet.
5. Treasurer explained that the Diocesan assessment has been reduced due to a reduction in the assessment of the National Church to the Diocese. It was decided that St. Ann's will add the difference to our pledge so that our payments to the Diocese will remain the same.
6. We have been asked to consider donating our green altar hangings to another small church out of the area. It was agreed that when the replacement hangings are received, the old hangings will be given to this Parish.
7. Angel Tree items must be returned by December 20<sup>th</sup>. so that they can be delivered to the family that we are supporting for Christmas. Also looking into the purchase of children's shoes for this family.
8. Safe Church Training was discussed. Deacon Kay helps with teaching this course and a class will be held by Spring. Other churches in the area are welcome to attend.
9. The need for a December Vestry Meeting will be decided.

10. The treasurer reported that we are operating “in the black” as of October 31<sup>st</sup>. He thanked everyone for their generous financial support. Copies of the previous month’s checks were reviewed in connection with the Vestry ongoing audit process.



### The Season of Christmas

Christianity has been described as the most materialistic of all religions. Every religion can slip into a world-denying mode, separating the spiritual from the material, the soul from the body. But in the incarnation---at the heart of its faith---Christianity tells the story of God embodied, feeling, tasting, breathing, seeing, smelling, fearing, hoping, hearing, and loving with us. The Son of God, who “is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being,” has become, as the Letter to the Hebrews puts it, “like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God...For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.”

Jesus’ life began as a baby. In one of the all-time favorite “religious” cartoons, the viewer first notices the beaming face of Mary as she is approached by one of the three wisemen. In the wiseman’s hands is a box of disposable diapers. The anachronism makes us laugh, but we also laugh to think how much Mary would have appreciated such a practical gift, helping her deal with the bodily functions as well as all the other parts of life with a new baby.

Christ gives us much to celebrate, but its story should always come as a surprise: a baby! We thought God might send a mighty one to conquer evil and to save, not at first a vulnerable infant, one who needed our love and care. The story of Christmas offers much to celebrate with its message of Emmanuel—God with us. But it is also challenging. In the church’s tradition the day after Christmas is the saint’s day for Stephen, the first Christian martyr, stoned to death for his faith. Two days later is called Holy Innocents, the commemoration of all the little ones King Herod was said to have slaughtered when he was trying to kill the baby Jesus. We remember as well all the children killed by war or human indifference. We also know that some people feel lonely and depressed at Christmastime, and let down afterward. Jesus was born into a real world where only our response of love to God’s love in us can bring peace and true Christmas joy and love to others. The readings of Christmastide tell of that real, material world—that joy, challenge, and love. Merry Christmas !!





**Can you find three extra faces in the crèche?**



## The Final Word

For whatever was written in former days was writ-ten for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:4-7

To me, one of the fascinating things about the Bible is how ideas originating thousands of years ago are just as applicable to us in the 21st century. The passage above is taken from the Second Lesson for the Second Sunday of Advent. It is a letter written by Paul to the Christians in Rome. He wrote to give them the essentials of the Christian faith in order to help them grow and mature until he was able to visit them in person. In the passage above, Paul asks that God grant that the church in Rome might live in harmony with one another and that together they might glorify God and welcome one another. These words apply equally to us as Christians living in the 21st century. Do we live in harmony with each other? Sadly, I believe that the answer is likely to be “no.” We may do so with some of our good friends but more often than not, there is one, and probably more, with whom we are “on the outs.” It may be due to something that was said or maybe something that was done or not done. Whatever the reason, the relationship is out of harmony. And that means the church, the Body of Christ, is out of harmony. So what’s the solution? It is spelled out in the Lord’s Prayer that we recite every Sunday. “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Forgiveness is at the heart of our faith. We are to forgive others when they wrong us and we are to seek forgiveness when we have wronged others. Only then will we be in harmony with one another. May God grant us the grace to make it so. (reprinted from 2007) PCV

**St. Ann’s Episcopal Church**  
**P. O. Box 22**  
**Afton, New York 13730**

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 COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY  
 AND ACTION**

**Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman**

**Wardens: Betty Vail**  
**Tracey Tallmadge**

**Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am**

Address Label Here

