

## 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)

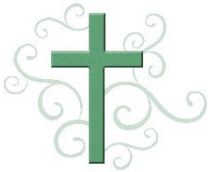
The Newsletter of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Afton, NY

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*

February. I think about February this year and what comes to my mind is a classic Merle Haggard song - "If We Make It Through December". Of course, my version is "If we make it through February..."

Unlike Merle's song of loss and extreme emotional stress, though, February for us will be a super-feast of abundance.

Foremost on my mind right now is that the Bishop Search Committee is entering an important new phase. January we made the first cut of nominees and I'll once again echo the words of our committee's chairperson when she said all the members of the committee are really excited about the "breadth and depth" of the nominees.

The first cut was difficult enough, but in Feb we have the committee broken down into smaller groups that will individually conduct and record Skype interviews with the nominees. All committee members have to review all the interviews before our next meeting near the end of Feb. At that meeting we will make another cut down to a smaller group of nominees who the committee will meet with in April (to make our final cut down to a 3-5 person slate of candidates).

Aside from the exciting work of the Search Committee, February also means - Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lent are here!

Our 3 parishes will meet on Shrove Tuesday for pancake dinner and imposition of ashes at St Paul's Parish House/Community Center on Tues Feb 9th from 5-7pm. There is also an Ash

Wed service for the Greene community at Immaculate Conception at noon and a 7pm Ash Wed service at St Ann's.

Lent also marks the beginning of our annual Wed night Lenten Study at St Ann's! From 5:30pm - 7pm we will meet at St Ann's and share in good food and good study with a program that Jim and Terri Weir are supplying.

So, as we enter this season of Lent, and travel together through it, may God's blessings be with each one of you.



**February 10 Ash  
Wednesday service 7p.m**



MINISTRY



ASSISTANTS

**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE**

Service Schedule						
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Feb 7	HC	T. Tallmadge	D. Vail	D.Vail	J.Rettberg	T. Tallmadge/B.Vail
Feb 10	HC	T. Tallmadge	T. Vail		T. Tallmadge	B.Vail
Feb 14	MP	A. Weiber	M. Harding	B.Vail		T. Tallmadge
Feb 21	HC	R. Felldin	D. Becker	R. Felldin	D. Becker	T. Tallmadge/B.Vail
Feb 28	MP	M. Harding	M. Harding	M. Harding		D.Becker
Mar 6	HC	T. Tallmadge	B. Vail	T. Vail	M.Harding	T. Tallmadge/B.Vail
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Feb 7	K. Vail			Feb 8	B.Vail/D.Ermlich	
Feb 14	R.Felldin	Feb 14	D.Becker/M.Harding	Feb 10	M. Kelly/R.Sherman	
Feb 21	M.Harding					
Feb 28	M.Kelly	Feb 28	T.Tallmadge/B.Vail			

Lectionary (Year C)					
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading
Feb 7	HC	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99	2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2	Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)
Feb 10	HC	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Psalm 103:8-14	2 Corin. 5:20b — 6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Feb 14	MP	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalm 91:1-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
Feb 21	HC	Genesis 15:1-12,17-18	Psalm 27	Philippians 3:17— 4:1	Luke 13:31-35
Feb 28	MP	Exodus 3:1-15	Psalm 63: 1-8	1 Corinthians 10: 1-13	Luke 13: 1-9
Mar 6	HC	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**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!

**Altar Guild Duty:** ALTAR GUILD for the month of February: Tracey Tallmadge (607-343-1301). Throughout Lent, flowers are not placed on the Altar until Easter Day.



### St. Ann's Prayer List for February 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.

Carol, Peter, Joyce, Mya, Holly, Cindy, Lois, Sally, Clifford, Richard,  
 Don, Pastor Sue, Andrea, Adrianna, Diane, Doug, Micha, Jody, Jan,  
 Larry, Steve, Derek, Annika, Declan, Gabby, Judy, Dakota, Tommy, Kevin  
 Fr. David Hanselman, Fr. Bruce MacDuffie, Fr. Chuck Taylor, Bishop "Skip" Adams,  
 Bishop Michael Curry, The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph, Mother Lisa,  
 Pope Francis, Zion Church, St. Paul's Church, The General Theological Seminary of the  
 Episcopal Church, The vestry of St. Ann's, and 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, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.*

### **BISHOP SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Father David is on the Bishop search committee. Please keep Fr. David and the other search committee members in your prayers

May all kings  
fall down before him,  
all nations give  
him service.



## THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Perhaps the most persistent of human dreams is that we are not alone in the universe. We hope that life and what happens to us are not all an accident to which the rest of the universe is indifferent. In modern dress, responses to this yearning sometimes take the form of stories about visitors from outer space or the sighting of unidentified flying objects. In every age, versions of astrology have offered the comfort that there is some design. By sign and story the readings of the Epiphany season tell of God's way of salvation and its outreach beyond Judaism to all peoples. Light and revelation transform darkness, fear, and uncertainty. Christians are called to respond by proclaiming "the boundless riches of Christ" and by becoming missionaries of this message of light. But their first response is more simply awe, joy, and then the worshipful bringing of gifts along with the Magi.

The readings of the Epiphany season emphasize what God has done in and through Jesus. The star shines and we rejoice in stories of his nativity and baptism. He is God's beloved and chosen one to bring the forgiveness of sins and "light to the Gentiles." We hear stories of his teaching, miracles, and acts of healing. As the prophets foretold, we learn who he is, and we come at the end of the season of Epiphany (that means literally "shining upon") to glimpse his transfiguration in glory. He is "the light of the world" who causes the heart to "thrill and rejoice" and brings "exceeding great joy," and new "boldness and confidence" in the relationship with God and all creation.



### *St. Ann's Stewardship Committee*

Offering envelopes are in the Parish Hall, take one and put down your number on the yellow pad. 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!!!



The all of the individuals who took down the crèche and put it away for another year.

Thanks to Steve Stewart for putting new hinges on the TV cabinet in the Parish Hall.



### EASTER LILY INFORMATON

If anyone would like an Easter lily in memory of a loved one, please call Betty Vail at 639-1201 or e-mail her at [Bettom415@aol.com](mailto:Bettom415@aol.com). Orders will need to be in **no later than March 11**.

***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 Betty Vail. We don't want to miss anyone.*



Jody and Sandy Proffitt are now full time Residents of Georgia. Their new address is:

Jody & Sandy Proffitt  
112 Snug Harbor  
St. Marys, GA 31558

They will be sorely missed and we wish them “God Speed” and good luck in their new location. Thank you !! Jody & Sandy for all you did for St. Ann’s.



## FROM VESTRY MEETING JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>

1. Voted to make contributions to Episcopal Relief & Development, Friends of Rogers and Afton Glenwood Cemetery.
2. Received a thank you from Bishop Adam's wife Bonnie for contribution made towards expenses of the Mission of Miracles project with San Salvador. Letters have been received from San Salvador children thanking St. Ann's for items collected for that project. These have been translated and will be reviewed by the district young people.
3. Our old copier has been donated to Charles Decker for use by the Afton Historical Society.
4. A pancake supper will be held at St. Paul's on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Shrove Tuesday.
5. St. Ann's Lenten soup and video program begins February 17<sup>th</sup>. eat at 5:30 p.m. and program at 6.
6. St. Ann's will host the Easter Sunrise Service this year with breakfast to follow.
7. The importance of selecting our convention delegates was noted in a letter received from the search committee. These delegates will attend convention November 18 & 19 and also vote for a new Bishop August 6<sup>th</sup>.
8. Fr. David would like to have the three vestries, Zion, St. Paul's and St. Ann's get together at a central location to discuss where we are and where we are going.
9. Treasurer reported that we are solvent and thanked everyone for their continued support of St. Ann's financial needs.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP TRANSITION COMMITTEE OF CNY

Because of its origins, the Episcopal Church is considered apostolic, as its bishops can be traced back to the original apostles via holy orders. The word "episcopal" refers to government by bishops. The historic episcopate (bishop) continues the work of the first apostles in the Church: guarding the faith, unity and discipline of the Church, and ordaining men and women to continue Christ's ministry. Bishops are also chief priests and pastors and, by their devotion to the people of their jurisdictions, rightly influence the spiritual character of their dioceses.

Bishops in the Episcopal Church are elected by clergy and lay delegates who represent all the people of a diocese. And so it is that, during this particular year, a new bishop will be selected to lead the people of this diocese, from Utica to Waterloo, from the St. Lawrence River to the Pennsylvania frontier. The process for the election of a bishop is not complicated but it is specific so following the plan and schedule is important. Ponder, for example, the wise maidens in Matthew's Gospel, who, unlike their foolish companions, were prepared when the time came. They had not lost sight of the plan and we have the advantage of knowing the schedule!

Parishes need to prepare for the upcoming election. Of course, all required paperwork needs to be kept up-to-date, but the focus of this letter is to remind you that Delegates to Convention need to be chosen promptly! ***The Delegates from your parish will actually be attending two conventions: the special Electing Convention on August 6<sup>th</sup>, and the annual Diocesan Convention on November 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>*** and they must be elected by

early May. Ms. Debbie Nettle will be sending forms for Delegate certification by mid-April. To be wise and not foolish, you should be prepared to return the forms without delay, so that your parish will be represented at both Conventions, and have a voice in this historic election.



### LENTEN PROGRAM REMINDER

Wed night Lenten Study at St Ann's! Begins February 17<sup>th</sup>. Eat at 5:30 p.m. and Program at 6.

We will meet at St Ann's and share in good food and good study with a program that Jim and Terri Weir are supplying

There are 3 open dates for Lenten meals still needed to be filled: February 24, March 2 and March 16. Three individuals are needed to prepare a meal for each of these dates. If you are able to help out, please e-mail Tracey Tallmadge or Betty Vail. Thank you very much.



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

## The Final Word



This is a reprise of a commentary that was written for the Feb 2010 issue.

*Just as they were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” — not knowing what he said. Luke 9:33*

Peter’s and his companions are on a mountain with Jesus and they drift off to sleep while he is praying. Then they are awakened when Jesus is transfigured. It is interesting to read of Peter’s first response when he wakes up and sees the changed Jesus along with Moses and Elijah. He wants to build a dwelling for each of them. Think about it. Isn’t that often what we try to do with God? Put Him in a dwelling (or what some would call a box?) It’s a natural thing to do. Our minds have a difficult time conceptualizing an entity that always was and always will be, that is all powerful, all knowing and yet loves and knows each of us individually. So it is only natural that we think of God in our image instead of the other way around. Unfortunately, this limits our relationship with God and we forget that with God all things are possible. Instead, we live in anxiety when prayer could bring us peace. We feel lonely even though God is always with us. We are fearful when faith could calm our trembling. We wallow in despair when God offers us joy. God has made us joint heirs with Christ. He offers us innumerable blessings and promises, promises that are exceedingly great and precious. Grab them. Claim them for your life. Don’t limit God. The Lord of the impossible is waiting for you to call on His name. Will you call on Him now?

Peace be with you. PCV

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

SHARING GOD’S LOVE IN OUR  
 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

