

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

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

This is a day that the Lord has made! And I hope that whatever you are faced with, you can be glad that you have this day. I hope that you have a sense of gratitude. It's not something I can demand of you. It has to spring from your heart. Gratitude works in tandem with faith to make good days sweeter and bad days a bit easier to bear. It is the Spirit of God working in and through you.

I've been thinking about things like this since my good friend Fr Chuck passed away. There have been days that it's been nearly impossible to gratefully accept God's gift of a new day. But herein lies more evidence of God's superabundant giving - beautiful days continue to come and go, with or without my gratitude for them. At some point, though, my mood shifts and I find a deep gratitude that God's gifts continue. And, when I recognize that my own days will eventually come to an end, and I consider all the many people I care for, I am very glad that God's abundance will continue to bring good days to those who come after me.

I hope my sharing this with you doesn't simply elicit pity or fear. I hope it strengthens you. The Christian life is a life lived in community - a community of caring, listening and presence. Please, please, please contact me if you want or need to talk. Yes, I am busy, but I am never too busy to find some time to chat with you. It might take a day or two to get it on my calendar (and if it doesn't get put on my calendar, there's a chance I might just forget), but one of the nice things about all the stuff I do is that I can manage to adjust my schedule. In short, yes, I am busy, but I will always find or make the time to talk.

At least, I will try my best. None of us is perfect. Only God is perfect. But, if we keep our eyes and ears and hearts open, we find God's good, life-giving way forward.

I'm thrilled to tell you all of another wonderful example of God's abundance - God has made it possible that we all might have a new deacon to help serve us. She will make a fuller introduction of herself in next month's newsletter, but for now let me welcome Deacon Kay Drebert. Many of you have met her already and in the coming weeks many more of you will be able to meet her. She is a vocational deacon - also called a permanent deacon. Her personal calling to ministry is to serve God's church as a deacon. Thanks be to God for all of God's many blessings!

Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes																					
June 5	HC	R.Felldin	D.Wieber	RF	DW	B/Vail/D.Wieber																					
June 12	HC	P.Tucker	R.Sherman	----	----	---- (Picnic)																					
June 19	MP	A.Wieber	T.Tallmadge	TV	----	B.Vail																					
June 26	MP	C.Tarvin	J.Rettberg	RF	----	D.Wieber																					
July 3	HC	J.Rettberg	C.Tarvin	BV	JR	B.Vail																					
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Church School</th> <th colspan="2">Morning Prayer</th> <th colspan="3">Food Pantry</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Summer</td> <td>Break</td> <td>June 19</td> <td>D.Vail/T.Vail</td> <td>June 13</td> <td colspan="2">Betty/Dianne</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>June 26</td> <td>Tracey/Robin</td> <td>June 15</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry			Summer	Break	June 19	D.Vail/T.Vail	June 13	Betty/Dianne				June 26	Tracey/Robin	June 15		
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Altar Guild Duty for the month of June is Betty Vail 639-1201. 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.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

Lectionary (Year C)					
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading
June 5		1 Kings 17:8-24	Psalm 146	Galatians 1:11-24	Luke 7:11-17
June 12		1 Kings 21:1-21a	Psalm 5:1-8	Galatians 2:15-21	Luke 7:36— 8:3
June 19		1 Kings 19:1-15a	Psalm 43	Galatians 3:23-29	Luke 8:26-39
June 26		2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62

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!

St. Ann's Prayer List for June 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, Clifford, Richard, Heather, Andrea, Adrianna, Dakota, Andrew, Steve, Derek, Annika, and Declan, Gabby, Tommy, Kevin, Foster, Frances, Michael, Connie, Steve, David Hanselman, Fr. Bruce MacDuffie, Bishop "Skip" Adams, Bishop Michael Curry, The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph, Mother Lisa Busby, Pope Francis, Zion Church, St. Paul's Church, St. Andrews Church, St. Matthews Church and Emmanuel 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

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.

The above is from the Evening Prayer service in the Book of Common Prayer.



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!!!



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Synopsis of vestry meeting 5/15/16

1. Outreach for May was divided between the Episcopal Relief and Development and the Chenango County SPCA.
2. Church picnic will be June 12th. at Kellystone Park. We will use the electronic organ device to provide music from the Praise Music Hymnal.
3. It was decided to open the clothes closet on Sunday May 22nd. And again on June 18th. St. Ann's has purchased a quantity of children's clothes as there is a strong demand for these items.
4. Vestry members were asked to be thinking about what questions they would like to ask the Bishop candidates at the "walk about."
5. Deacon Kay Drebert will be helping Fr. David with the three parishes starting May 22nd.
6. CPR class is planned at St. Paul's on June 22nd. Anyone is welcome.
7. Voted to purchase a three bay warmer and teflon fry pan for the kitchen to use at food preparation events.
8. Carol Cimini has offered to help with the prayer chain.
9. Treasurer reported that we are solvent with all bills paid.



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



On May 8th. Mother's Day, breakfast was prepared and served to some 40 people by the following men: Mike DeBetta, Mado Cimini, Ron Sherman, Larry Felldin, Woodie Robins, Calvin Tallmadge, Duane Kane, Dan & Tom Vail. To the best of our knowledge, there were no ill effects from the meal and it was a most enjoyable morning. Thank you to all the men who helped with the preparation, serving and cleanup



The annual church picnic will be held at Kellystone Park on June 12th beginning at 10a.m. Please bring a dish to pass and your place settings. A signup sheet will be on the counter in the Parish Hall.



FATHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, JUNE 19TH

Give thanks for all men who have been an influence and blessing in your life!



SEARCH FOR THE ELEVENTH BISHOP OF CENTRAL NEW YORK UPDATE... Four Candidates Nominated for Position of Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Central New York

Syracuse, NY, May 2, 2016: The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York has announced a slate of four candidates for the position of 11th Bishop of the Diocese, succeeding the Right Rev. Gladstone B. “Skip” Adams, who is retiring after 15 years of service. A bishop serves as the chief priest and pastor of a diocese (geographic district of The Episcopal Church).

The candidates are:

- **The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe** (Rector, St. Peter's in the Woods Episcopal Church; Fairfax Station, Diocese of Virginia)
- **The Rev. Canon Debra Kissinger** (Canon for Transition Ministries and Leadership Development, Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis; Diocese of Indianapolis, Indiana)
- **The Rev. Noah H. Evans** (Rector, Grace Episcopal Church; Medford, Diocese of Massachusetts)
- **The Rev. Nora Smith** (Rector, The Church of St. Barnabas (Episcopal); Irvington, Diocese of New York)

The slate was announced after a nationwide search by the Search Committee. The diocese will elect the next bishop at a special electing convention on August 6, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, New York. The consecration of the bishop-elect is tentatively scheduled for December 3, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, New York.

"They have all undergone extensive interviews, background checks and reference checks," the Search Committee chair, the Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, said. "Our committee has been working since last summer to develop a rich pool of candidates, get to know them and help them get to know our diocese. We think the people of the diocese will be pleased at the rich



AN INVITATION TO CREATE QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY CANDIDATES AT THE WALKABOUTS

Dear Rectors, Clergy-in-Charge, and all laity:

The Transition Team for the upcoming election for Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York seeks your help. The candidates have been selected and presented to you electronically and in print. Now it is our job to sort out who we believe could successfully be the next bishop of this diocese.

We ask for your active participation in this process by developing questions you would like the candidates to answer. Perhaps something came to mind after reading both their biographical statements and their answers the questions posed by the search committee. There may also be an idea that has been brought up that you would like to hear about. These questions will be grouped, categorized, melded and organized so they can be asked of the candidates at the walk- about presentations in July.

There are several ways to accomplish this task. Congregations may want to gather their questions and submit them as a group. If study groups are in process in your parish, you may want to work and submit that work as a group within a congregation. Individual questions may also be submitted. When designing your questions, write them in a manner that a completed answer could be given within a five-minute time frame, once the candidate has had an opportunity to hear the question and think about it for a minute.

Please note: there will *not* be an opportunity to ask questions from the floor at the Walkabout events.

As in all things about this process, there is a final deadline. Questions will be received **until midnight on June 11, 2016**. Questions may be submitted electronically (the preferred way) to deaconshelly@gmail.com or they may be mailed using the postal service to Deacon Shelly Banner, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 900 Vine Street, Liverpool, NY13088.



When we “sow the seed” of the word, we do not know what we are doing or what effect the seed is having. When was the last time that you told an un-churched person what your faith means to you? You don’t need to be an articulate speaker or even have to convince this person to agree with you. All you need to do is calmly state what your faith in God has done for you. The following is a parable of encouragement to those who sow the seed of the word. It has been in the newsletter before but bears repeating.

The folklorist and short-story writer H. L. Gee tells this story. In the church where he worshiped, there was a lonely old man named Robert. He had outlived all of his friends, and hardly anyone knew him, at least not well. When Robert died, Gee had the feeling that there would be no one to go to the funeral, so he decided to go, so that there would be someone to follow the old man to his final resting place.

He was right, there was no one else, and it was a wild, wet day. The funeral reached the cemetery, and at the gate there was a soldier waiting. He was obviously an officer, but on his raincoat, there were no rank badges. The soldier came to the graveside for the ceremony: when it was over, he stepped forward and before the open grave, swept his hand upwards in a salute. H. L. Gee walked away with this soldier, and as they walked, the wind blew the soldier’s raincoat open to reveal the shoulder badges of a brigadier general.

The brigadier general said to Gee: “You will perhaps be wondering what I am doing here. Well, many years ago, Robert was my Sunday school teacher. I was a wild lad and a sore trial to him, but he never gave up on me. He never knew what he did for me, but I owe everything I am or will be to old Robert, and today I had to come to salute him at the end.”

Old Robert did not know what he was doing in the sense that he could see the results. No preacher or teacher ever does. It is our task to “sow the seed” and leave the rest to God. When we “sow the seed” we must not look for quick results. There is never any haste in nature’s growth. It takes a long, long time for an acorn to become an oak tree; and it may take a long, long time before the seed or your word germinates in the heart of an individual. But often a word dropped into someone’s heart in childhood lies dormant until some day it awakens and its memory brings resistance to some great temptation or even preserves that person’s soul from death. We live in an age that looks for quick results, but in the sowing of the seed, we must sow in patience and in hope and sometimes we must leave the harvest to the years.

So the next time you get discouraged and wonder if “sowing the seed” is a waste of time and effort, remember this story. In these times, many people think that the words of the Gospel are outdated and out of touch. Look around, and you will see that nothing could be further from the truth. These times are in desperate need of someone to “sow the seed.” Will that person be you?



The Final Word

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 (Reprinted from the June 2010 News) In the Epistle reading for Pentecost 4, Paul refutes the teaching that certain requirements must be met before a person can be saved. It seems to me that if Paul were writing to us in our time, he might have said, there is no longer Methodist or Presbyterian, there is no longer Baptist or Roman Catholic, there is no longer Congregational or Episcopalian, and maybe even, there is no longer St. Ann's or St. Peter's or Zion! However I'm sure he would still make his point that "all of you are one in Christ Jesus!" Are we one in Christ Jesus? As we encounter challenges and difficulties in our church are we focused on discerning what God is calling us to do and how we might be more effective in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ? Or are we concentrating on how to keep St. Ann's as we would like to see it? These are tough questions, to be sure, maybe even uncomfortable ones, but they must be addressed.

St. Ann's has always been blessed with a strong and talented laity that has weathered many a storm over the years. And it is no different now. Several among us have indicated a willingness to lead services. A few years ago, a goodly number of parishioners attended Fr. Ralph's training for Lay Eucharistic Visitors. Attendance at Chenango District meetings has been gratifying. A strong sense of being one in Christ is evident in our worship and during the laying on of hands for healing. As we continue to seek God's will for St. Ann's, it is imperative that we encourage each other to identify strengths and talents and to use them to spread the Good News as brothers and sisters who are one in Christ. It is then that people will say, "Look how they love one another!"
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

