

## 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*

May God's most precious blessing be with you and stay with you this year!

January. Good time to take a moment and reflect. I looked back at old newsletter messages and I recalled efforts begun and failed, as well as efforts begun and succeeded and changed.

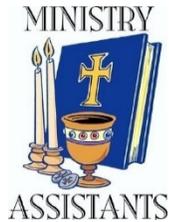
Yes, indeed, it is a good thing to occasionally stop and "take stock" of where we've been.

But, the real question is, "What do we do with that information?" Do we focus our attention on things that didn't work out? Do we admire the things that did work out? Do we review the development of how something began, grew and then changed to accommodate the real needs and opportunities? Do we learn from the past, learn appropriate lessons from it and seek to strengthen our faith - and our faith community - as we move into tomorrow?

There is one theme that I've noticed recently that has offered me a good deal to reflect upon. Specifically, I've noticed that a gift given with strings attached is no real gift at all. And it's gotten me to thinking what gifts, what things I may offer to others and what I expect, or don't expect, in return. Now, I'm not going to confess the ways in which I've fallen short, and I don't expect any of you to tell me (though confession is a sacrament our denomination offers and anything said is held in highest confidence), but I would like to share one train of thought I've had.

I find myself wishing to promote Fair Trade and best agricultural practices. That leads me to think I have a choice to either donate money outright to organizations that encourage those things, or orient myself to becoming part of the market for their products. So, I've chosen to prefer Fair Trade coffee over other options. But, I don't look at this as a gift. I suppose it might be possible to think of the extra price I pay as a "gift", but I much prefer to think that the risk Fair Trade farmers take in offering their product is much, much more of a gift. There's a good chance they won't get anything in return, so their risk-taking seems to me to be the real gift.

Now, of course, "throwing good money after bad" is dreadfully irresponsible money management, but it is the extreme opposite of "gifting with strings attached." There is so much middle ground of giving without expecting. Spend a little time reflecting, then listen to your faith and your heart and the Holy Spirit of God will help lead you (and all of us, together) forward. Amen.



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

### Special Thanks to all who serve

Service Schedule						
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Jan 3	HC	M. Harding	A. Wieber	---	BV	D. Becker/B. Vail
Jan 10	MP	D. Vail	R. Felldin	RF	---	D. Vail
Jan 17	HC	M. Harding	D. Becker	TV	DB	Tracey/B. Vail
Jan 24	HC	T. Tallmadge	J. Rettberg	BV	BV	B. Vail/Tracey
Jan 31	MP	A. Wieber	D. Becker	MH	---	D. Becker
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Jan 10	B. Vail	Jan 10	Denise/Marissa	Jan 11	B. Vail/D. Kane	
Jan 17	M. Kelly			Jan 13	M. Kelly/J. Rettberg	
Jan 24	T. Vail					
Jan 31	K. Vail	Jan 31	Carol/Mado			

**Mother Liz Groskoph will be with us on Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>. & Jan 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Lectionary (Year C)					
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading
Jan 3	HC	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 84 or 84: 1-8	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Jan 10	MP	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan 17	HC	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Jan 24	HC	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, & 8-10	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Jan 31	MP	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30

**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 Altar Duty for the month of January are Carol Cimini 693-2907 and Melrose Kelly, 639-1090. 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.



## St. Ann's Prayer List for January 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,	Fr. Chuck Taylor,		Fr. David Hanselman,		Fr. Bruce MacDuffie,	
Bishop "Skip" Adams,		Bishop Michael Curry,		The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph,			
Pope Francis, Zion Church,		St. Paul's Church,		Judy,	Dakota,	Tommy,	Kevin,
Jan, Larry, Steve,		Derek, Annika, Declan,		Mother Lisa,		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, sooth 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



### Stewardship report for year end 2015

As of December 21, 2015 St. Ann's has received "intention" cards from 15 parishioners for a total which exceeds 2015. There are several new "intention cards" and a number of people have increased their "intention" for the coming year. Once again, St. Ann's Parishioners have shown generous support of the financial needs of our Parish. A hearty Thank you !! to everyone for your support.

*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!!!

## Kudos



Many thanks to all who helped with the Christmas Eve service and who participated in the silent pageant. Also to Ron Sherman for putting up a trail cam to watch the crèche.

*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.*



## Vestry

**December:** We did not have a Vestry meeting for the month of December, but did vote to use our Outreach for this month to the Rescue Mission in Binghamton.

### November:

1. St. Ann's was represented at Convention this year.
2. Many thanks to Jody and Sandy for doing the Newsletter the past couple of years. Many thanks to Tracey Tallmadge for taking over as Jody and Sandy now reside in the State of Georgia, and we miss them already. New windows have been installed in the Church cellar.
3. Ron Sherman offered to replace Jody Proffitt on the Interchurch Council.
4. St. Ann's outreach went to the Food Pantry for the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets.
5. Kerri Vail has offered to accept an appointment to Vestry to fill the unexpired term of Jody Proffitt expiring 12/31/17.

## Village of Afton Christmas Parade

On December 5<sup>th</sup>. 15 parishioners and a dog rode a covered wagon in the Christmas parade, towed by a vintage Farmall tractor driven by Calvin Tallmadge. Christmas carols were sung and a good time was enjoyed by all.



### Christmas Without Anglicans?

One of the things I like most about the Christmas season is the music. It only occurred to me recently that so many of the Christmas carols came to us from Anglicans. Even our popular image of jolly old St. Nick was shaped by a professor of biblical studies at (of all places) an Episcopal seminary. "Twas the Night Before Christmas" is a poem published anonymously in 1823 and generally attributed to Clement Clarke Moore, a professor of classics at Columbia and lay Professor of Hebrew and Bible at the General Theological Seminary in New York. (built on land he donated.) The poem, which has been called "arguably the best-known verses ever written by an American," is largely responsible for the conception of Santa Claus from the mid-nineteenth century to today.



### And what about the carols?

The text of the popular "O little town of Bethlehem" was written by Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal priest, long-time Rector of Trinity Church in Boston, and later Bishop of Massachusetts. He was inspired by visiting Bethlehem in 1865. At Christmas, 1868, he asked his organist, Lewis Redner, to write music for the poem he had written. Redner's tune, titled "St. Louis," is the one most often used.

John Mason Neale, an Anglican priest, scholar, and hymn-writer, translated many ancient hymns, including the Christmas classic, “Of the Father’s love begotten.” He was also responsible for much of the translation of the Advent hymn “O come, O come, Emmanuel,” based on the “Great O Antiphons” for the week preceding Christmas. Neal’s most enduring and widely-known legacy is probably his own original Christmas contributions, most notably “Good Christian men, rejoice” and his Boxing Day carol, “Good King Wenceslas.”

The Anglican priest Charles Wesley penned the classic “Hark! The herald angels sing.” The original words were reworked by his friend and fellow priest George Whitfield into the verses familiar to us today.

The “Father of English Hymnody” Isaac Watts, a nonconformist minister in the Church of England, wrote the famous carol “Joy to the world!”

Anglican bishop Christopher Wordsworth penned the famous carol, “Sing, O sing, this blessed morn.”

Christina Rossetti was an English poet and a devout Anglo-Catholic. Two of her poems, “In the bleak midwinter” and “Love came down at Christmas,” became popular Christmas carols.

Cecil Alexander, wife of a bishop in the Church of England, wrote the hymn “Once in royal David’s city.”

Nahum Tate, the son of a priest and England’s poet laureate, wrote the hymn “While shepherds watched their flocks by night.”

At the age of twenty-nine, English writer and Anglican layman William Chatterton Dix was struck with a sudden near-fatal illness and confined to bed rest for several months. While his illness resulted in a deep depression, out of his traumatic experience, he wrote the lovely carol, “What Child is this?”

Yes, what would Christmas be like without Anglicans?

*The Rev. Timothy Matkin, SSC, Commanche, Texas*



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 Jan. 2006 issue.)

*Epiphany - 1. A feast celebrated Jan. 6th, commemorating the coming of the Magi as being the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.*

**manifestation**—an act of being evident to the senses, especially to the sight.

As Christians we believe that God became manifest in the person of Jesus Christ. That is, God became visible to people by taking the form of Jesus Christ, calling himself “the Light of the World.” And in the beginning of his Gospel, John says, “The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.”

Think about light. It can’t be seen unless it is reflected off something, be it a particle of dust or an object like the moon.

Furthermore, in the absence of light, we are unable to see and are likely to stumble around, bumping into things and possibly injuring ourselves.

Isn’t God much like that? We can see Him only when His love is reflected by others. Likewise, it is only when we live our lives based on God that others will see God in and through us. Without God, we stumble through our lives, running into things and often getting hurt.

With Jesus, the Light of the World, we are able to see, and when we see, we don’t get hurt as much!

Peace be with you. 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

