

## 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*

April means Easter is near and Easter means our Alleluias are coming back!

And this year, the Easter Vigil that we've been rotating around to our 3 parishes will actually be held at St Peter's, Bainbridge at 8pm - PLEASE BRING BELLS TO RING IN THE ALLELUIA!

Now that St Peter's has a regular pastor that lives nearby (not to mention a friend of mine!), we've been trying to do more activities together. So far, while I've been focusing on teaching Confirmation classes this Lent, Pastor Becky has been leading our Wednesday night Lenten series.

Sharing and working together. That's the name of the game, folks. I know lots of us have wonderful God-moments when we're out in nature, but I'm convinced that it's only when we're worshiping and working together to further God's kingdom, only then do we truly have Jesus-moments. Sharing and working together.

I want to begin raising awareness about something I find really exciting. A couple of our folks from St Ann's, Afton will be going with the next Diocesan El Salvador Habitat for Humanity mission trip in late May. The cost for these folks is about \$1400 plus airfare (which can be pretty expensive). Please consider making a donation to St Ann's (write Habitat El Salvador trip in the memo line) to help these folks defray the cost. St Ann's address is: St Ann's, P.O. Box 22, Afton, NY 13730. If any "extra" money is contributed, we will contact our diocesan El Salvador Companion Diocese Committee and donate it where the need is greatest to further strengthen our relationship with El Salvador.

A lot more information about the incredible work being done in El Salvador can be found on their website: [www.habitat.org/where-we-build/el-salvador](http://www.habitat.org/where-we-build/el-salvador)

To borrow a phrase from one of my favorite theologians, N.T. Wright, let us be like the first disciples, who upon witnessing Jesus' resurrected form, did NOT say, "Jesus is risen, whew! Let's rest on our laurels." No, the first disciples, upon witnessing the risen Christ said, "Jesus is risen! We've got work to do!" And may God's many blessings be with all of you!

### 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!

<b>Service Schedule</b>						
<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>OT Reader</b>	<b>Epistle Reader</b>	<b>CS</b>	<b>EM</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>
Apr 2	HC	R.Felldin	J.Rettberg	RF	CC	Tracey/B. Vail
Apr 9	HC	D.Vail	T.Vail	---	JR	B. Vail/Tracey
Apr 16	HC	M.Harding	C.Cimini	---	DW	B. Vail/A.Cimini
Apr 23	MP	R.Felldin	D.Vail	RF	---	D.Vail
Apr. 30	MP	A.Wieber	D.Wieber	TV	---	D.Wieber
May 7	HC	Tracey	J.Rettberg	BV	JR	B. Vail/Tracey
<b>Church School</b>		<b>Morning Prayer</b>		<b>Food Pantry</b>		
April 2	R.Felldin			Apr 10	B.Vail/T.Tallmadge	
April 9	No CS			Apr 12	M.Kelly/J.Seacat	
April 16	No CS					
April 23	K.Vail	Carol &	Mado Cimini			
April 30	B.Vail	Tom Vail	T.Tallmadge			
<b>Lectionary (Year A)</b>						
<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>OT Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle Reading</b>	<b>Gospel Reading</b>	
<b>Apr 2</b>	HC	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45	
<b>Apr 9</b>	HC	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66	
<b>Apr 16</b>	HC	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-18	
<b>Apr 23</b>	MP	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31	
<b>Apr 30</b>	MP	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35	

**Altar Duty** for the month of April 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.

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** will be held on Wednesday evening April 5th at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Bainbridge. Meal at 6:00pm and Program at 6:30pm. All are invited to attend. There will be no Bible Study at St. Ann's during the Lenten season.



If you are interested in purchasing an Easter Lily for the Altar on Easter Sunday, please contact Betty or Tracey

April Coffee Hour Sign Ups

No one signed up. If you are shopping and see something that looks yummy you can always just bring it in and we can use or freeze for a later date. I'm sure the coffee if nothing else will be on and lots of fellowship will be served.



To everyone who supported our Parish during 2016 and returned "intention" cards for 2017. If you have not returned a card and would like to do so, there is still time. Your vestry thanks everyone for their generous financial support.



### St. Ann's Prayer List for April 2017

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  
Derek  
Annika  
Declan  
Sasha  
Sharon  
Bill & Linda  
Diane

Fr. David Hanselman  
Fr. Bruce MacDuffie  
Deacon Kay  
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

Pastor Sue      Caitlin  
Marsey          Sarah G.  
Marion          Genine  
Rev. Gurdon Brewster

## CELEBRATIONS IN APRIL



4/9 Jane Seacat  
4/25 Kerri Vail



4/23 Denise & Amy Weiber

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

### HOLY WEEK



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- April 9 - 9:15am - Palm Sunday service at St. Ann's
- April 11 - 7:00pm - Bishop De-De will have a Blessing of Oils at St. Marks in Chenango Bridge, NY
- April 13 - 7:00pm - Maundy Thursday service at St. Ann's
- April 14 - 7:00pm - Good Friday service at St. Ann's
- April 15 - 8:00pm - Easter Vigil at St. Peter's, Bainbridge
- April 16 - 6:30am - Easter Sunrise service at North Afton Methodist church
- April 16 - 9:00am - Easter Sunday service at St. Ann's

## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS



March 19, 2017

1. **Outreach:** Discussed El Salvador project. Two St. Ann's parishioners are planning to participate in the "Habitat for Humanity" field trip. Vestry decided to support them financially as part of our outreach efforts. Also voted to make a contribution to the Afton Presbyterian Church "A place at the table," lunch project.
2. **Possible purchase of an electronic projector:** Discussed having available for Church use and for organizations that use St. Ann's Parish Hall. Decided to try one and see how well it works in the Parish Hall and then decide where we would like to go from there. This will be done April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
3. **May Breakfast:** Will be hosted by St. Ann's on May 5<sup>th</sup>. with a program on hop growing in New York State.
4. **Fay & Barbara Todd bequest:** The final payment has been received. It has been decided to "tith" these funds to help those less fortunate than St. Ann's. St. Ann's children reviewed the Episcopal Relief and Development information on what animals could be purchased to help others and made several choices. A final decision on donations will be made shortly.
5. **Also discussed the investment of the remainder of the Todd bequest for the benefit of the Parish.** A final decision to be made next month.
6. **Holy Week Services:** Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm at St. Ann's, Good Friday, 7:00pm at St. Ann's, Easter Vigil, Saturday at 8:00pm at St. Peter's, Easter Sunrise at 6:30am at North Afton Methodist Church, Easter service at St. Ann's will be at 9:00am. Note the time change.
7. **Fr. Ralph Groskoph will be with us for the Palm Sunday service, at 9:15AM.**
8. **Girl Scout Sunday:** A picture and short write up has been put in the Messenger.
9. **Possible "facebook" account:** Deacon Kay is checking with the communications specialist for the Diocese to get more information. Perhaps a "facebook" for the entire District.
10. **St. Ann's Scholarship for an "exceptional student" at Afton Central School:** Decided to continue with this scholarship, increasing the amount to \$300.
11. **Update of carpet:** There have been some suggestions that this be considered. Vestry asked to think about this and will be discussed next month.
12. **Treasurer's report:** Treasurer commented on several items of the report, including clergy expense. We are still "in the black."

A smiling Jesus story

By Fr. Bon Lengwin

It had been a long, difficult, hot and even grueling day. Jesus' disciples sat around a small fire on a cold night and slowly ate the dry bread they had. Suddenly Jesus began to smile, so much so that it appeared that he was going to laugh out loud.

Peter noticed and asked: "Master, how can you possibly smile at a time like this? I'm exhausted and worried about you because you touched the lepers we visited today. And the odor from the man we saw who was badly burned was horrendous." Jesus looked at Peter and said: "You should smile." John added to what worried Peter and commented: "And what about that man who spit on you, Master? All you did was to try to comfort him with your words." Jesus said again: "You should smile."

The disciples shook their heads in disbelief at Jesus. Then Judas added: "And what about the rich man who merely thanked you and gave you only one coin when he could afford to give many more? All you did was smile at him. How could you do that, Master? And now here you are smiling again even though we are totally exhausted, our feet ache, and we have nothing to eat but a little dry bread we've been carrying around for a long time."

Jesus said: "You must smile." "Smile at what?" they almost all asked in unison. Jesus answered: "Because you have life, because you have seen people healed, because you have received words of wisdom from my Father. But all you do is complain about your tired feet and your lack of food. Let us eat the bread as if it were a feast. Let us smile because we can still breathe in the fresh air, we can still see the sun setting, and we can hear the sounds of nature. There is joy in the world."

Peter asked: "But what about all the suffering, the hate and the destruction we've seen?" Jesus raised his hands to the heavens and prayed aloud: "Father, they do not see your gifts in the world. Yes, there is suffering and it pains my heart. But I can still see the beauty in nature and in mankind. I know from it that you love us so much."

The disciples around the campfire began to feel guilty as they looked at one another. But then slowly each began to laugh until it sounded like a loud roar. Jesus asked: "Do you not feel better now?" When they smiled at one another, Jesus was happy. He said: "We need smiling faces and happy hearts to tell the Father we know He has given us so much even though in the eyes of many it seems like so little at times."

"A little common sense, a little tolerance, a little good humor, and you don't know how comfortable you can make yourself on this planet."

Somerset Mauham, via Apple Seeds

### The Final Word



*And again Jesus was deeply troubled. Then they came to the grave. It was a cave with a stone rolled across the entrance "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man's sister, said, "Lord, by now the smell will be terrible because he has been dead for four days." Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you will see God's glory if you believe?" So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so they will believe you sent me." Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus come out! And Lazarus came out, bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go."*

*John 11: 38-44*

The story of Lazarus's death and resurrection contains a profound teaching about sorrow. When Jesus arrived and was taken to the graveside, he wept openly. Onlookers were impressed with the power of his grief and immediately recognized it as an indicator of his great love. "See how much he loved him," they said. The tears Jesus shed that day forever validate the experience of human sorrow and grief. Even though we have the hope of resurrection and we know that for the believer physical death is not the final word, our tears and sorrow are appropriate and good. How comforting to know that God himself is willing to walk the way of sorrow with us! Is there any sorrow that you have been unable to express fully? You can share it with the Lord, for he understands your grief fully.

From The Touchpoint Bible

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**P. O. Box 22**  
**Afton, New York 13730**

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 AND ACTION**

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

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

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

Address Label Here

