

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

Every Communion prayer includes remembering God's acts in salvation history. That's just one important part of our shared heritage with Jewish folks. For its part, Communion Prayer C includes a phrase that has had folks wondering for awhile now: "Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob". And what lots of folks wonder is, "What about our Mothers?" That is, what about the wives who bore the children of "our Fathers"?

I've wondered about this, on and off, for a few years. Does it simply continue the domination of masculinity (that has constituted far too much of our faith and nation) to ignore the females who have been so crucial to salvation history? Along with the Patriarchs of our faith, isn't it only fair to include the Matriarchs? That seems to me to be the nicely balanced thing to do.

But, something curious happens when we turn our attention to the Matriarchs - when we turn our attention to the wives of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. First and foremost, we realize there were A LOT of wives involved! For Abraham, we have Sarah, Hagar and Keturah. Isaac is odd in only having one wife - Rebekah. But then there's Jacob - his wives were Leah, Rachel, Bilhah and Zilpah.

One option would be to name the mothers that led to Judah, since Jesus, as a descendent of David, was from that tribe. But Jesus himself called 12 apostles just because of the symbolic importance of having the 12 tribes reunited. Moreover, recall that St Paul was from the tribe of Benjamin. So, even though Jesus was descended from Judah, from the very beginning, remembering all 12 tribes was crucially important. Indeed, considering the early acceptance of gentiles, it would seem casting the largest possible net is the only truly faithful thing to do.

So, another option could be to name all the wives of the Patriarchs - name all Matriarchs. But, as we saw above, that's a lot of wives!

So, yet another option is to just go with what the Prayer Book says. And that's what I've decided to do these last few years as I've prayed about and considered the issue. But the uneasiness of leaving out the women has gotten me considering the issue anew. May God bless and keep 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!

Service Schedule						
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
May 7	HC	T.Tallmadge	J.Rettberg	BV	JR	B.Vail/T.Tallmadge
May 14	MP	C.Cimini	A.Cimini	AC	----	A.Cimini
May 21	HC	R.Felldin	D.Wieber	RF	DW	B.Vail/D.Wieber
May 28	MP	B.Vail	C.Tarvin	TV	----	B.Vail
June 4	HC	D.Weiber	Kris B.	DV	DW	D.Vail
Church School						
		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
May 14	K.Vail	Denise W.	Kristine B.	May 10	J.Rettberg & R.Felldin	
May 21	C.Cimini					
May 28	J.Rettberg	B.Vail				
Lectionary (Year A)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
May 7		Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10	
May 14		Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14	
May 21		Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:7-18	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21	
May 28		Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11	
June 4		Acts 2:1-21	Ps. 104:25-35, 37b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23	

Altar Duty for the month of May is Pat Tucker 639-1984. 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.



May Coffee Hour Sign Ups

May 7 – Carol Tarvin
 May 14 – Mother’s Day Breakfast
 May 21 – Judy and Mya
 May 28 – Betty Vail

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.
 The coffee will always be ready.

The Mother's Day Breakfast will be

held on May 14



A Place at the Table, sponsored by St. Agnes Church, held at the Afton Presbyterian Church, May 6, 11 to 1pm. All welcome.

Holy Humor Sunday to be held May 7th. during the morning service



Brooks' BBQ to be held at 13th.



St. Peter's Church, Bainbridge, 11 to 1pm, May



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
 Bill
 Elliott

- 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 Graydon
 Marsey Evelyn
 Marion Connie

CELEBRATIONS IN MAY

5/3 Adleigh Noon
5/5 Pat Tucker
5/11 Betty Vail
5/22 Allyson Vail
5/26 Burke Wright



Please send your birthday/anniversary dates to me @ cttallmadg@aol.com or advise me at church.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS



There was no meeting due to Easter . We will resume 3rd Sunday in May.



A Parable on Motherhood

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. “Is the way long?” she asked. And her guide said, “Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning.” But the young mother was happy and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children and gathered flowers for them along the way and bathed with them in the clear streams; and the sun shone on them and life was good, and the young mother cried, “Nothing will ever be lovelier than this.”

Then night came, and storm, and the path was dark and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle and the children said, “O mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come,” and the mother said, “This is better than the brightness of day, for I have taught my children courage.”

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary, but at all times she said to the children, “A little patience and we are there.” So the children climbed and when they reached the top, they said, “We could not have done it without you, mother.” And the mother, when she lay down that night, looked up at the stars and said, “This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage, today I have given them strength.”

And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth—clouds of war and hate and evil—and the children groped and stumbled and the mother said, “Look up. Lift your eyes to the light.” And the children looked and saw above the clouds an Everlasting Glory, and it guided them and brought them beyond the darkness. And that night the mother said, “This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God.”

And the days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years, and the mother grew old, and she was little and bent. But her children were tall and strong and walked with courage. And when the way was rough they lifted her, for she was a light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide.

And the mother said, “I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them.”

And the children said, “You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates.”

And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said, “We cannot see her, but she is with us still. A mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a Living Presence.”

Church Etiquette

On Your Way To Church

On your way to the Lord's house be thoughtful, be silent, or say but little and that little good. Speak not of other's faults; think of your own, for you are going to ask forgiveness. Never stay outside; go in at once. Time spent inside should be precious.

In Church

Kneel down very humbly and pray. Spend the time that remains in prayer; remember into Whose presence you have come. Do not look about to see who are coming in, nor for any other cause.. It matters nothing to you what others are doing; attend to yourself. Fasten your thoughts firmly on the service. Do not miss one word; this needs a severe struggle. You have no time for vain thoughts. The blessed Spirit will strengthen you if you persevere.

After Church

Remain kneeling and pray. Be intent; speak to no one until you are outside. The church is God's house, even when prayer is over.

On Your Way Home

Be careful of your talk, or the world will soon slip back into your heart. Remember where you have been and what you have done. Resolve and try to live a better life.

~Episcopal Tract Society of Philadelphia

***this was a clipping my Grandmother Florence Doolittle Mitchell gave me many years ago when I was a child.



The Final Word

But Stephan, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily upward into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!" Then they put their hands over their ears, and drowning out his voice with their shouts, they rushed at him. They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. The official witnesses took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he fell to his knees shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died. (NLT) Acts 7:55-60

The above quoted scripture is the 1st Lesson for the Fifth Sunday of Easter. The following commentary comes from the Guideposts edition of the New Living Translation. The central message of Christianity, that all have sinned and are lost apart from Christ, is offensive to most people. After all, we humans are proud and we don't like to consider that we are ever in the wrong. Because Christianity is offensive, those who bear its message are perceived as offensive also. Stephen became the first Christian martyr because the Jewish leaders who sent Jesus to the cross were enraged by his ringing accusation of their sin. As believers, we must ask God for the courage to speak the truth and the grace to endure any unjust treatment that may result. When we consider the impact of Stephen's death the eventual conversion of the young man Saul (later called Paul) and the spread of the gospel (Acts 8.4) -- we see that even terrible persecution in God's hands can lead to great glory.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

