

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

Stewardship - honestly, it's not a 4 letter word. Stewardship is quite simply taking care of those things we're responsible for. It's not a chore or a hassle; it's caring for and giving thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

In our Gospel reading for October 22d, Jesus tells us, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and give to God the things that are God's" Or, the classic, King James translation: Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and render unto God what is God's. But what exactly belongs to Caesar? Or, in our case, what exactly belongs to all our different worldly authorities? What belongs to the town? To the state? to the federal government?

And what exactly belongs to God?

Naturally enough, since it's a fundamental question of faith, the church has provided some guidance in the matter. From the very beginning, our faith is based on the idea that our entire life belongs to God. Our very existence is entirely due to God's good pleasure. And to help guide us, the Church has us think of stewardship in terms of time, talent and treasure.

A long time ago, I was told that the responsibilities of a pastor include serving as an example and sharing their personal decisions concerning stewardship. I was a bit surprised and a bit uncomfortable when I heard that. If I can let you in on a little secret I've discovered about most pastors - we aren't at all comfortable serving as examples to our congregations. We are, after all, and not surprisingly, human, just like you.

My wife and I discussed the matter and together made decisions for our family. For us, rendering unto God what belongs to God has meant, basically, giving my life to ministry. When it comes to "time, talent and treasure", we decided that I would enter the process for ordination so that I might devote the rest of my working life to working for God in the Episcopal Church.

Now, it seems, the main challenge of being a good steward of my time is to be really careful not to spend too much time doing the work of ministry. The written agreement with the parishes is that I will devote 40 hours per week to all my church duties. There's simply no way to limit my work to 40 hours a week, but it gives me a standard to keep in mind. And this standard is particularly helpful in reminding me that I am supposed to have a life beyond being a pastor. I have to make sure to set aside quality time with my family and friends. I have to set aside time for exercise and rest. Like everyone, I have to find a way to balance so many different time commitments. So much for the "time" aspect of stewardship.

As for "talent", it's still a lively question whether I have any (ha, ha). I can say for certain, however, that I am naturally much more comfortable reading books and studying. Honestly, I'm naturally a pretty introverted person, but I've had a good deal of training in leadership, healthy relationships and public speaking. I can't say they come as naturally as research and study, but they are among the talents I need to do my work as a pastor.

But when we talk about stewardship, it seems the most difficult conversation has to do with "treasure". It's not just idle talk when Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) As a practical matter, the standard the church finally settled on centuries ago is that 10% of what we produce - what's called the tithe - is what we individually owe to God. But each one of us needs to decide for ourselves what belongs to God. Of course, we're a part of a community, so whatever answer you come up with is going to have some effect on all of us.

So, not surprisingly, years ago when I asked my home priest what his policy was, he simply told me - "10% off the top, David. 10% right off the top." So, as I got closer and closer to becoming a priest, I knew I had to get ready to take "10% right off the top". But, I also came to realize that I wasn't quite sure just what "right off the top" meant (more on that later). And, since I'm married, it's not just my decision.

The use of our treasure began when we were simply a family worshipping at St Paul's, Waterloo. At that point, we were just guessing what we could contribute each week.

But, a lot more thought about stewardship of our money came with making decisions about going to seminary. We could tell right away that it was going to be expensive. Even with help from the diocese and my home parish, the debt load from earning my master's of divinity degree came to over \$25,000.

But, like I said, as I drew closer and closer to becoming a pastor, my wife and I both knew that there'd have to be "10% right off the top". Well, for better or worse, and for what it's worth, we decided that "right off the top" meant my take-home pay. I make \$656 per week and so \$65/week is split between the 3 parishes. I also get a check for \$75 every time I do a service at the Vet's Home, so 10% of that is added in. But like so many of you, from time to time I pay for some church things out of my own pocket.

When I lay it out like this, it sounds so simple. If I make it sound simple, believe me, it wasn't. And it still isn't simple. Aside from the simple fact that it'd be nice to have more money to spend or save every week, there's the ongoing difficulty based on the fact that my entire benefits package is so easy to see and being easy to see, it's also quite easy for people to have their own opinions about what I should be doing.

It would be nice to say, "Well, how about 10% of that?" Except that a big chunk of that is money I never see. There's a pretty big difference between the amount of money I see and the amount of money the parishes have to pay. Right now, I don't know what to do about that. I want to be a good steward. I want to do what's right. But for me, this is the grey area. I can't say I'm comfortable with the way things are, but it's what my wife and I have decided upon and we think it's good enough for now.

"Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and give to God the things that are God's". How can we believe that our entire lives belong to God and yet also determine the practical, real-life implications? How can we balance all the many demands in our lives? By honest conversation, prayerful reflection, and a reasonable and mature notion of dedicating ourselves to this amazing thing called Church - the life together that Jesus Christ gave his life for.

That's just a little bit of what it means to me to render unto God what is God's. May God's Holy Spirit be delivered to all of us, to help guide and govern us as we seek to be God's people in this place and at this time. Amen.

November Celebrations

11/6 Robin Felldin
11/15 Sophia Hanselman



11/15 Ron & Cindy Sherman
11/24 Al & Pat Tucker

Stewardship Sunday

Stewardship Sunday will be November 12th. You should receive a Stewardship letter within the next 10 days. Please look for it and give it your prayerful consideration.



Daylight Savings time will change on Sunday, November 5th. Please set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.



If you desire to help clean the brass for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, we will need about 5 or 6 people to do this ministry after the church service on November 5th. Your help will be appreciated. As the old saying goes, "many hands make light work."

The first Sunday in ADVENT is November 26.

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
Nov 5	HC	M.Harding	J.Rettberg	MH	JR	B.Vail/A.Vail
Nov 12	MP	A.Wieber	D.Wieber	MH	----	D.Wieber
Nov 19	HC	P.Tucker	J.Rettberg	BV	JR	A.Cimini/B.Vail
Nov 26	MP	T.Tallmadge	R.Felldin	RF	----	A.Vail
Dec 3	HC	A.Wieber	D.Wieber	DV	DW	D.Vail/B.Vail
Church School						
		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Nov. 5	T.Vail			Nov 13	Pat & Al Tucker	
Nov. 12	M.Harding	B.Vail	T.Tallmadge	Nov 15	R.Felldin & J.Rettberg	
Nov. 19	B.Vail					
Nov. 26	K.Vail	T.Tallmadge	R.Felldin			
Lectionary (Year A)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Nov 5	HC	Joshua 3:7-17	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12	
Nov 12	MP	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	Psalm 78:1-7	1 Thessalonians. 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13	
Nov 19	HC	Judges 4:1-7	Psalm 123	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30	
Nov 26	MP	Ezekiel 34:11- 16, 20-24	Psalm 100	Ephesians 1:15- 23	Matthew 25:31-46	
Dec 3	HC	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37	

Altar Duty for the month of November is Carol Cimini 639-2907 and Melrose Kelly 639-1090. 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.



St. Ann's Prayer List for November 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
Kevin

- Fr. David Hanselman
Fr. Steven White
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
Duane
Marsey Evelyn Connie
Marion Hailey Colby
Dakota Eli Nick Judy

The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School.

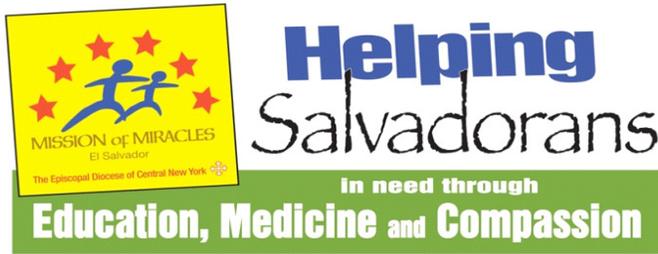
The following prayer is from the Evening Prayer service in the Book of Common Prayer:
Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS FROM OCTOBER 15, 2017 MEETING

1. The October outreach was designated as the Episcopal Relief and Development Organization to be used in Puerto Rico for hurricane relief.
2. Possible carpet replacement has been put on hold for now.
3. An estimate has been received for removal of the three trees at the end of the Parish Hall. It was decided to proceed with their removal as the ash tree is rotting and the hickory has a split trunk.
4. Fr. David announced that he will be taking a sabbatical leave next May through August. Arrangements will be made for priestly coverage.
5. The outline of “The Agile Church” program, which the Diocese is promoting, has been distributed to all vestry members. Everyone is encouraged to read the book. This program is intended to address how we can spread the Good News in our communities and encourage everyone to think and pray about this “Great Commission.”
6. Stewardship Sunday is to be November 12th.
7. The sample colors for the proposed kitchen counter replacement were not available for this meeting.
8. Treasurer reported that we are operating “in the black” and thanked everyone for their faithful support of St. Ann’s finances. It was noted that St. Ann’s is one of only two churches in the Diocese of Central New York that contributed to the Episcopal General Seminary. The balance of the cash from the Todd Estate has been placed in the Investment Fund operated by the Diocese.





The **15th** Mission of Miracles medical mission to El Salvador will take place **February 3-11, 2018 !!**

As always, we depend on the generous contributions from the diocese for the following items found at a local pharmacy:

- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes (No Multi-packs please for sanitary reasons)
- Children's Liquid Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Nasal saline spray
- Antifungal cream
- Anti-itch cream
- Muscle rub
- Cranberry tablets
- Readers (+2.25 to +3.75) Also Sunglasses (children and adult)
- Any children's prescription glasses that you no longer need

Items can be brought to the Mission of Miracles table at Diocesan Convention

Thank you for your help and continued support!!

The following were taken with permission from The Joyful Noise Letter

God's kids say & do the funniest things

"A friend who leads the children's program in her local Lutheran church was telling the children about the rescue of Moses by Pharaoh's daughter. She used it as an object lesson to remind them of how so much in life needs to be rescued, including the animals in the local rescue shelter.

"Following a brief prayer, the children began to file out of the sanctuary for Sunday school when a small girl broke ranks and ran down the aisle fervently announcing, 'Mommy, Mommy, the Bible says we have to get a dog!'"

—Bob White
Owego, NY

A police officer saw a man driving with a bunch of penguins in the backseat of his car. The officer pulled the man over and asked, "Where did you get those penguins?" The man replied, "I found them wandering on the side of the road."

"Well, you should take them to the zoo," the cop said. The next day the police officer saw the same man drive by, with the penguins still in his backseat. Once again, he pulled the car over, and said, "I thought I told you to take those penguins to the zoo!"

"I did," the man said. "Today, I'm taking them to church."

—via George Goldtrap
Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL



The Final Word

Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and how you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?' And the King will tell them, 'I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' Matthew 25: 37-40

Many are familiar with this portion of the Gospel reading appointed for the last Sunday in Pentecost. Jesus is describing what it will be like when the Son of an returns. Clearly, he is saying that we will be held accountable for the way we have dealt throughout our lives with those who are less fortunate than we are.

It's interesting and probably not a coincidence that this reading comes during the time when we are anticipating Thanksgiving Day, and thinking about what we will give back to God in thanksgiving for what He has given us. It is easy and tempting to think of this simply in terms of money. But if we do that, we have already missed the mark. For not only are we required to be good stewards of our treasure, but also of the time and the talents that God has given each of us. And this gets into how we live our lives. Are we living examples of what it means to be a Christian? In our own town of Afton, people lack adequate food and drink. Are we supporting the Afton Food Pantry and St. Ann's Closet? Do we give of our time to help staff them? Do we warmly welcome strangers and newcomers who join us at St. Ann's? As a member of St. Ann's, are we doing our part to accomplish our mission: Sharing God's love in our community through prayer, study and action? Do we reach out in love to those less fortunate than ourselves? These are some of the things I'll think about this month as I consider how to respond to God in thanksgiving.

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

