

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

Welcome April and the Easter season!

I hope that Lent was a time of growth for you. I want to thank all the folks that participated in the Lenten study of C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*. Thank you for taking up the challenge and sharing your thoughts and insights! I found it greatly rewarding and I hope you did too.

That being said, there is no one particular way for people to deepen their faith. Some do it through reading, study and discussion. Some do it through action; especially serving those whom Christ served - the poor, hungry and sick. Some do it through prayer - individual and contemplative or communal. And I'm sure I'm leaving out countless other ways we can each one of us deepen our faith.

But, how do we know? How can we be sure?

One of the terrifying morals from *Screwtape Letters* is that we can easily delude ourselves into thinking that we're serving God when, in fact, we're merely serving ourselves. To be sure, God does seek the very best for us, but God's very best is wholly contained in truly loving one another.

If there's one thing Easter demonstrates to us, it's that rarely, if ever, is "truly loving one another" easy or glamorous or rewarding in any practical, worldly sense. It's always a matter of working our hearts to love as God loves: to lift up the lowly, bind up the broken-hearted.

In a world, at a time when so much of everything surrounding us can be confusing and frightening, Easter provides a touchstone of certainty as to what God really and truly seeks and asks (but doesn't demand) of us - to love one another as Christ loved us.

Among other things, Easter is the absolutely certain "stamp of approval" from God that the ministry of Jesus Christ is exactly what God asks of God's people. As much as we can do the work that Christ did, we can be certain that we are doing God's work.

I've been privileged to see so many of you do this hard work of heart work and it is a beautiful, beautiful thing. Easter blessings to you all! Amen.

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
Apr 1	HC	C.Cimini	A.Cimini	AC	CC	B.Vail/A.Vail
Apr 8	MP	J.Rettberg	J.Rettberg	---	----	-----
Apr 15	HC	R.Felldin	J.Rettberg	RF	JR	B.Vail/T.Tallmadge
Apr 22	MP	C.Cimini	J.Rettberg	AC	----	A.Cimini
Apr 29	MP	A.Wieber	D.Wieber	AC	----	A.Cimini
May 6	HC	T.Tallmadge	R.Felldin	BV	BV	B.Vail/T.Tallmadge
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Apr 1 N/A	Easter			Apr.9	T.Tallmadge/J.Seacat	
Apr 8 N/A		R.Felldin	T.Tallmadge	Apr.11	J.Rettberg/M.Kelly	
Apr 15	K.Vail					
Apr 22	T.Vail	B.Vail	D.Vail			
Apr 29	K.Buchanan	D.Wieber	M.Harding			
Lectionary (Year B)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Apr 1	Easter	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18	
Apr 8		Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133	1 John 1:1C 2:2	John 20:19-31	
Apr 15		Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48	
Apr 22		Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18	
Apr 29		Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8	
May 6		Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17	

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.



Eph 1:10 ¹⁰This plan, which God will complete when the time is right, is to bring all *creation* together, everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as head.

St. Ann's Prayer List for April 2018

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.

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| <u>Short Term</u> |
| Duane |
| Pastor Sue |
| Grace |
| Marion |
| Dawn |
| Hailey |
| Judy |
| Trisa |
| Charlie |
| Eli |
| Noah |
| Chuck |

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|---------------------------------|
| <u>Long Term</u> |
| Fr. David Hanselman |
| Fr. Steven White |
| Fr. Bruce MacDuffie |
| Deacon Kay |
| Pastor Becky |
| Fr. Geoff Doolittle |
| 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 |
| Dakota |
| Carol |
| Peter |
| Joyce |
| Mya |
| Holly |
| Cindy |
| Lois |
| Clifford |
| Richard |
| Bill |



The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School. The Rector search for Emanuel, St. Andrew's & St. Matthew's churches. 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.



Many thanks to the ladies who helped clean the brass on March 11. It was a fun time to visit with one another and as the old saying goes “many hands make light work”. The Easter Bunny has informed me (Tracey) that there will be a fun time after the service on Easter Sunday for the children. Thank you to Robin and Kerri for planning this event.

St. Ann’s was most pleased to welcome Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent to conduct the Palm Sunday Service on March 25th. Her inspirational words gave all of us “food for thought” during Holy Week and in the days beyond Easter.



4/9 Jane Seacat
4/25 Kerri Vail



4/23 Denise & Amy Weiber
Carol & Mado Cimini



**If you do NOT see your birthday/anniversary in the newsletter each month, then I do not have your date. Please send me your name and dates and I will be glad to add to my list.
cttallmadg@aol.com**





The baptism of Bryson Carter Bonsell was a joyous event and the reception was exceptional. Congratulations to the family and welcome, Bryson, to St. Ann's family.





Vestry highlights for March 2018

The March meeting was abbreviated due to other activities.

- The repair of the church entry door sill plate was approved.
- Fr. David presented a proposed agreement between St. Ann's and Fr. Geoff Doolittle, who will be covering for Fr. David during his sabbatical. It was approved and signed by both wardens.
- Fr. David has been contacted by the priest at Christ Church Willard regarding a demo of our electronic organ device. It was decided to offer our old "Synthia" electronic organ device to them at no cost if they are interested.
- The Afton School student trip to Texas to help victims of the hurricanes has been cancelled. They will be returning St. Ann's donation which was to help with that trip.
- The use of the Easter offering was discussed and it was decided to send it to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church, in response to a request from the Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry asking churches to consider this organization for projects in the Middle East.



After "The Greatest Generation, THIS!?"

By Cal LSamra, editor, The Joyful Noiseletter

Today, at the cusp of American prosperity, we are witnessing a parade of sleazy famous male characters – Republicans and Democrats, conservative and liberal politicians, TV anchormen, talk show hosts and executives, actors and producers, doctors, et al, being accused of numerous acts of sexually harassing, groping, and abusing women. The sheer volume of these accusations is mind-boggling.

What has changed in the last 50 or 60 years? Our fathers and mothers – Protestants, Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Jews – by and large were church and temple-going people who taught their children spiritual values and to be respectful of women and all human beings.

It should be clear by now that both liberal and conservative politicians have been caught up in these scandals. So the problem and the solution are not political. And not economic. And not psychological. The mental health establishment doesn't have a clue as to how to stem the tide of madness in our society.

It may not be popular to suggest that the problem that has led us into this state of near-anarchy is a spiritual problem that requires a spiritual response. It's all about how people treat one another.

But nobody, including the news media, seems eager to entertain the possibility that this near-anarchy in America is the result of the decline of religion, church-going, and churches, where self-discipline and civility were taught.



Through him God made all things; not one thing in all *creation* was made without him. John 1:3

Easter Potpourri



It was Palm Sunday, and because he had a cold, five-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm branches. The boy asked what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," His father explained.

"Wouldn't you know it," the boy fumed. The one Sunday I don't go, He shows up."

From The Rev. Gary Nims of Urbandale, IA: "I'm combining Easter and April Fools' Day this year. I'm sending the kids out to look for eggs I haven't hidden."

CONVERSATION OVERHEARD BETWEEN PONTIUS PILATE AND JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA:
 PONTIUS PILATE: "JOSEPH, I DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU'RE THE RICHEST MAN IN THE REGION. YOU HAVE MADE THIS BRAND NEW TOMB FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, AND YOU'RE GIVING IT TO JESUS? JOSEPH: "IT'S JUST FOR THE WEEKEND!"

Easter Sunday this year falls on April 1 – April Fools' Day. The Apostle Paul said a couple thousand years ago: "We are fools for Christ's sake." Be a fool for Christ's sake this Easter. Be a Merry Christian.

After Sunday service, the pastor was greeting churchgoers as they were leaving. One man noticed a small fresh wound under the pastor's chin and asked, "What happened?" the pastor explained that while he was shaving earlier that morning, he was thinking about his sermon and cut himself, to which the parishioner replied: "Well, next time you should think about shaving and cut your sermon."



"For we walk by faith, not by sight" ([2 Corinthians 5:7](#)).

The Final Word



All the believers were of one heart and mind, and they felt that what they owned was not their own; they shared everything they had. And the apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great favor was upon them all. There was no poverty among them, because people who owned land or houses sold them and brought the money to the apostles to give to others in need.

Acts 4:32-35

This is one of the readings suggested for the Second Sunday of Easter and if you are at all like me, you may have some difficulty with it. Think about it. **All the believers were of one heart and mind, and they felt that what they owned was not their own; they shared everything they had.** I used to think that this called for us to subscribe to Socialism or Communism. (If that troubles you, read what happens to Ananias and Sapphira. (Acts 5:1-11) However, before you go out and list your house and land with a realtor, think about what this text is saying. The people described had some basic character flaws, it was not that they were being pressured to give a certain amount. Rather it was that they were being less than honest by trying to appear that they were giving their all while in truth they were holding back for themselves some of what they had. It is this dishonest behavior in dealing with God and God's people that prevents the Holy Spirit from working effectively. May the power of God's grace give us the will and ability to discern what God would have us give of our time, our talents and our treasure in support of what He wants us to do.

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**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

