

## 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*

It's March and Lent is hitting its full stride. Last month I shared the Invitation to observing Lent found in the Prayer Book's Ash Wednesday service. Penitence and forgiveness are the main themes of this season. But they're not meant to be strictly for themselves.

Penitence and forgiveness. Countless generations of Christians have practiced these principles. But why? What good are they? Simply put, penitence and forgiveness bring us closer to the freedom God has in mind for us. Alcoholics Anonymous has known this and successfully practiced it for decades. Among other things, penitence and forgiveness have been important parts of consistently promoting freedom to those suffering the prison of addiction.

And to those who do not suffer from addiction? Penitence and forgiveness is the only way to truly create a clean heart and renew right relationships. It's not always easy to follow our Baptismal promises. It's easy to fall into bad habits or to lose good habits of prayer and worship. It's easy to fall short of proclaiming by word and example the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. It's easy to fall short of seeking and serving Christ in all people. And in the world we live in, it's all too easy to fall short of striving for justice and peace among all people and respecting the dignity of every human being. It's difficult stuff. It's easy to fall short.

Our hearts cannot help but be weighed down from falling short. Penitence and forgiveness are the cure for what ails us and our society. But it's hard work. Recognizing where we fall short, doing our best to do better, asking for forgiveness, and giving forgiveness. It is all such difficult work. That's because it's also quite simply the most important work. Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus that we're spending Lent preparing for, provides the absolute certainty that forgiveness is God's hope for us. Indeed, God is more willing to forgive than we are willing to ask.

I hope this season of Lent is everything you want and need it to be for you. Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11) provides us with the beautiful vision that as soon as we're willing to turn back towards God, God is willing, like the father, to come running to embrace us. Thanks be to God! And blessing upon blessing to you all!



**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>
Mar 4	HC	C.Cimini	A.Cimini	AC	CC	A.Cimini/B.Vail
Mar 11	MP	A.Wieber	D.Wieber	TV	----	D.Wieber
Mar 18	HC	A.Wieber	D.Wieber	DH	DW	Tracey/B.Vail
Mar 25	HC	A.Cimini	J.Rettberg	-----	CC	Tracey/B.Vail
Mar 29	HolyThur	A.Cimini	D.Wieber	-----	DW	
Mar 30	GoodFriday	C.Cimini	J.Rettberg	-----		
April 1	HC	C.Cimini	A.Cimini	A.Cimini	CC	A.Cimini/B.Vail
<b>Church School</b>						
<b>Church School</b>		<b>Morning Prayer</b>		<b>Food Pantry</b>		
Mar 4	T.Vail	Mar 11	C & A Cimini	Mar 12	B.Vail/T.Tallmadge	
Mar 11	R.Felldin			Mar 14	J.Rettberg/M.Kelly	
Mar 18	Baptism					
Mar 25	Palm Sun.					
Apr 1	Easter					
<b>Lectionary (Year B)</b>						
<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>OT Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle Reading</b>	<b>Gospel Reading</b>	
Mar 4		Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22	
Mar 11		Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21	
Mar 18		Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-13	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33	
Mar 25		Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1— 15:47	
Mar 29	Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalm 116:1, 10-17	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	
Mar 30	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1-19:42	
Apr 1	Easter	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18	

**Altar Duty** for the month of March is Tracey Tallmadge 343-1301. 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.

Please take NOTE that we will have the pleasure of Canon Carrie Scofield-Broadbent providing us HC on Palm Sunday March 25th

### St. Ann's Prayer List for March 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.

#### Short Term

Duane  
Pastor Sue  
Grace  
Marsey  
Marion  
Dawn  
Hailey  
Trisa  
Charlie  
Eli  
Chuck  
Connie

#### Long Term

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  
Carol  
Peter  
Joyce  
Mya  
Holly  
Cindy  
Lois  
Clifford  
Richard  
Bill  
Kevin



The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church and 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 whosleep. 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.*

If you desire to purchase an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one for Easter Sunday, please contact Betty Vail at [639-1201](tel:639-1201)



On Wednesday, March 7, March 14 and March 21, a Bible Study will be held at St. Ann's beginning at 6p.m. with a light meal. The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis will be presented by video and discussion afterwards.



*Services at St. Ann's during Holy Week are as follows:*

*3/29 Maundy Thursday - 7p.m.*

*3/30 Good Friday - 7p.m.*

*4/01 Easter Sunday - 9:15 with Father Geoff Doolittle conducting the service.*



*6:30am at the Presbyterian Church.  
Breakfast to follow.*



*MARCH 11TH*

*SPRING AHEAD*

*CELEBRATIONS IN MARCH*



6<sup>th</sup> Connie Beames  
 7<sup>th</sup> Nancy Setford and Bobbi Zurn  
 16<sup>th</sup> Alan Seacat  
 25<sup>th</sup> Jody Proffitt  
 27<sup>th</sup> Melrose Kelly  
 28<sup>th</sup> Tracey Tallmadge and Laurin Felldin



No Anniversaries

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



Excerpt from Forward Through the Years:

***Psalm 27:15. Show me your way, O Lord.***

We can't escape from paradox when we think about God. We must try not to forget that while God never ceases to work in his universe and in us, he also never ceases to rest. Relaxation and leisure are all part of the divine energy, forever creating, forever renewing, and forever at peace within God. We do well to take note of this. For, in our fussing and busyness, we must occasionally stand still; and God tells us to do so. "Be still, and know that I am God."

The busier we get the more indispensable we imagine ourselves to be, and we end up having exhausted ourselves to death and having bored our brothers to death with the clatter and clamor of it all. One of the greatest Christian leaders in this generation can often be found by one of his staff just sitting, thinking. Not writing, not dictating, not organizing, not interviewing—just sitting. From those periods of peace amid a killingly busy life emerge wise words, written, preached, acted upon. The work gets done, and done more keenly, more coolly.

Resting in the Lord is a form of prayer we must learn in order to really enjoy spiritual maturity. God's will is our peace for the very reason that it is his serene wisdom making itself felt in our lives. Be strong, take courage, and wait for the Lord.--

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## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY 2018

- I. A number of potential “outreach” organizations were discussed. It was decided to support the “Northern Comfort” project of Afton School which helps victims of the Texas hurricane. Afton students will be travelling to Texas to provide labor for clean up and repair. It was also decided to support the “American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem” which, among other things, operates schools and medical facilities in Gaza and Ramallah for Palestinians.
- II. The new thermopane windows and door have been installed in the Parish Hall. The work was done by Madison Vinyl and is a big improvement. It should also help control heating costs as well as enable the windows to be washed from the inside of the building.
- III. The final distribution of the Fay & Barbara Todd estate has been made. We still have about \$3500 of the “tithe” funds, from their estate, to distribute. It was approved to purchase a small plaque to acknowledge their generous bequest to St. Ann’s, which has enabled us to replace the parish hall furnace, install new windows and a door in the parish hall and increase our outreach efforts to needy people and organizations both in the area and outside of our area.
- IV. St. Ann’s scholarship to an Afton Central School graduating senior was approved.
- V. Fr. Geoff Doolittle will be conducting our Easter service. Membership in the Afton Interchurch Council was approved. It was decided to have WiFi installed in the church and parish hall.
- VI. The treasurer reported that the parochial report has been completed and submitted on line and we are operating “in the black.” Thanks be to God and to everyone for their generosity. The treasurer also submitted a synopsis of our finances for the year 2017.





### A Paschal FAQ

*Almost anywhere we turn these days we see an outgrowth of the internet, the ubiquitous FAQ. For the computer illiterate, this stands for “Frequently Asked Questions.” The following are a few FAQ’s about Lent and Easter prepared by The Rev. Richard Losch, Livingston, Alabama.*

#### *Why is Lent’s liturgical color purple, the color of royalty?*

The purple that is used for Lent and Advent is not royal purple, but penitential purple. Royal, or “Tyrian” purple is a reddish purple, almost magenta. In ancient times it came from a rare mollusk that grew only off the shores of Tyre in the Mediterranean, and it was very expensive. The purple associated with penitence is a deep bluish purple, anciently made from berries and grapes. Lent is a season that emphasizes penitence for our sinfulness. It expects self-examination and self-discipline in preparation for the benefits of the death and resurrection of Jesus that saves us from damnation because of that sinfulness. As an emblem and reminder of that, we use purple.

#### *Has Lent always lasted forty days?*

No, but that length became common by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup>. century, so it is very ancient. The earliest Christians observed a fasting period of three to seven days, depending on the region. For at least two centuries most Christians observed only Holy Week, but they observed it with extreme penitence and fasting.

#### *Why are there no altar flowers during Lent?*

Lent is a penitential season, and flowers are usually associated with rejoicing. For this reason the altar is bare, and we use none of the usual symbols of rejoicing such as singing or saying “Alleluia.” Even though Sunday is never a fast day, in order to encourage the Lenten discipline we make Sunday services more somber during Lent, e.g. a silent processional.

#### *Are we required to fast in Lent?*

No, although it is strongly recommended. The Episcopal Church has few mandates, preferring to leave most spiritual discipline up to the conscience of the worshiper. Likewise, the Roman Catholic Church has dropped its Lenten mandates other than to require fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Even though abstinence from flesh meat on Fridays has never been mandated in the Episcopal Church, many Episcopalians practice it, at least in Lent.

#### *Why do we talk about the forty days of Lent, when there are actually forty-six days by the calendar?*

Sunday is always a feast day, even during Lent. Being the commemoration of the Resurrection, it can never be a fast day. It is sometimes called a “little Easter.” Discounting the six Sundays, Lent is forty days long.

#### *Why does the date of Easter vary?*

The ancient church calendar, like the Jewish one, was based on the phases of the moon. The date of Easter is tied to the full moon at the time of the Vernal Equinox. It was argued for centuries as to whether it should be the full moon nearest, or the first after the equinox, and whether it should be the Sunday nearest or after.

#### *Why is the day of Jesus’ death called Good Friday?*

For all the horror of the Crucifixion, the day is nevertheless good for us, because by the death of Jesus we are freed from the bondage of sin. The name of the day, however, is actually a corruption of Middle English *Godes Fridai*, “God’s Friday.”

## The Final Word



*At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles. Luke 6:13.*

From his many followers, Jesus chose 12 apostles to be his regular companions. We see no evidence in Scripture that Jesus chose these people on the basis of any extraordinary talents or assets they possessed. The only notable characteristic they all shared was their willingness to follow Jesus. With that in mind, read the following.

Why do you go to church?

A lady went to the Pastor of her church and said... "I won't be attending Church anymore." He said, "May I ask why?" She said, "I see people on their cell phones texting and typing during the service, some are gossiping, some just aren't living right, some are sleeping, some are staring at me, they are all just hypocrites..." The Pastor got silent, and then he said, "OK... But can I ask you to do something for me before you make your final decision?" She said, "sure, what's that?" He said, "Take a glass of water and walk around the church 2 times and don't let any water fall out of the glass." She said, "Yes I can do that!" And she went and got the glass of water. She came back and said proudly, "It's done." Then he asked her these questions:

"1. Did you see anybody on their phone?

"2. Did you see anybody gossiping?

"3. Was anybody living wrong?

"4. Did you see anyone sleeping?

She replied, "I didn't see any of that because I was completely focused on this glass, so that none of the water would fall." He told her, "When you come to Church, you should be just that focused on God, so that YOU don't fall."

THAT'S WHY JESUS SAID "FOLLOW ME!!!"

He did not say to follow Christians.

Don't let your relationship with God be determined by how others relate to God. Let it be determined by how focused you are on God.

### 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

