

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: 607-761-4601 Office: 607-656-9502

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 cannot be reached, please contact one of the wardens.

Wardens: Dan Vail: 607-240-9264 Tracey Tallmadge: 607-343-1301

Easter is nearly upon us! Easter. Truly the most wonderful day of the year. First off, please consult the schedule for services. This is the most wonderful time of the year and also the busiest. Lots of different services.

But, in the end, I just can't help but focus my mind, my heart and my hope on Easter. Though a few of you have heard me say that **every** Sunday is special because **every** Sunday is a memorial to Easter (hence, the "day off" during Lent), still Easter is the most special day of all.

And Easter is also (at least so far) the single most amazing day in all of the history of creation. That's why the first Christians referred to it as "the 8th day" - because it was God's action of a brand-new first day of creation; the day of re-creation. The day when humanity was conclusively shown the true will of God - God's purest goal for creation is life.

While the Resurrection marked the true beginning of our faith, it's the hope for Jesus Christ returning and setting things right that has guided the hearts of Christians ever since.

I propose a thought experiment: consider what will God's kingdom on earth look like.

Examples are easily found in Jesus' ministry and parables. God's kingdom alive and well on earth would be like a father running to welcome home his wayward son. It would be like multitudes of sick being healed. It would be the outcast invited back into community. It would be the hungry being fed, the naked being clothed, the blind given sight. But it would also be like the rich, powerful and vain being humbled while the meek and mild are made powerful. It is both frightening and exciting - the first will be last, the last will be first.

On Easter, Jesus Christ is the first fruits of all these things. Jesus' Resurrection was the true beginning of God's kingdom becoming realized on earth. The true beginning (as Revelation has us look forward to) of heaven and earth being joined together and God dwelling on earth. And then every tear will be wiped away and the River of Life will flow for all nations. Amen and Alleluia!

APRIL SERVICE SCHEDULE \ SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

If you are not currently receiving email Zoom invites, then please send your email address and you will be added to the parish listing. Bottom415@aol.com, Yes, the “zoom” service is different, but change is what life is all about.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Eucharistic Minister or MP Leader	Acolytes
Apr 3	Lent V HC	D.Wieber	D.Wieber	No Euch. Min.	T. Tallmadge/B. Vail
Apr 10	Palm Sun HC	J.Rettberg	J.Rettberg	No Euch. Min.	B.Vail
Apr 14	Maundy Thursday HC				
Apr 15	Good Friday HC				
Apr 17	Easter HC	A. Sabanos	A. Sabanos	J.Rettberg/C.Cimini	B. Vail/T.Tallmadge
Apr 24	Easter II MP	A. Sabanos	A. Sabanos	No Euch. Min.	B. Vail
May 1	Easter III HC	J.Rettberg	J.Rettberg	D.Vail/T.Vail	D. Wieber
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Apr 3	Lent V HC	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Apr 10	Palm Sun HC	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56
Apr 14	Maundy Thursday HC	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalm 116:1, 10-17	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Apr 15	Good Friday HC	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1-19:42
Apr 17	Easter HC	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18
Apr 24	Easter II MP	Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 150	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
May 1	Easter III HC	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

Morning Prayer April 24: Carol Cimini/Tom Vail

Altar Duty for the month of April is Betty Vail 607-639-1201. The flowers on the Altar Easter Sunday are in memory of all our loved ones. Blessed are they who have gone before us.

Holy Week services

April 10 – Palm Sunday at St. Ann's 9:15a.m. - Mother Liz Groskoph officiating – HE

April 14 – Maundy Thursday at St. Ann's 7:00p.m. – Holy Eucharist

April 15 – Good Friday at St. Ann's 7:00p.m. – Holy Eucharist

April 17 – Easter Sunday at St. Ann's 9:15a.m. – Mother Liz Groskoph officiating – HE

St. Ann's Prayer List for April 2022

It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. 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. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. We would like to be sure that this prayer list is updated as changes occur and don't want to remove someone that should be on it. Please send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 607-639-1201. Please note that long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names will typically be left on the listing for 3 or 4 months or perhaps longer.

SHORT TERM

Raevin
Eileen
Anne
Pat
Dakota
Thurston
Joan
Melrose Aubrey
Ralph George

LONG TERM

Fr. David Hanselman
Fr. Steven White
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. Matthews Church
St. Peter's Church
Carol Cindy
Peter David
Joyce Jason
Mya Terra
Holly Doc
Richard Marsha
Nate Hailey
Bill Bonnie
Bobbi



Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins –
Pete and Carol Vail
Joyce Whitney
Grace Affuso
Bonnie MacPherson

The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School. The Learning Communities Initiative of the Diocese. 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.*



Birthdays

4/9 Jane Seacat
4/25 Maxwell Harding
Kerri Vail

Anniversaries

4/23 Mado & Carol Cimini
Denise & Amy Weiber

Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary. Call 607-343-1301 or email cttallmadg@aol.com



CHURCH TERMS

CHURCH TERMS: -

MAUNDY THURSDAY – The Thursday of Holy Week when Christ washed the feet of His disciples, instituted the Lord's Supper, and gave a new commandment of love. John 13:34.

GOOD FRIDAY – The Friday in the week before Easter, Holy Week. The day on which the crucifixion is commemorated.

EASTER – The "Queen of the Festivals" of the Church Year commemorates the resurrection of our Lord. Its date is variable, and all other movable feasts are dependent upon it. Easter occurs the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, March 21.



Vestry Hi-lites for March

1. Outreach: Discussion on several possibilities for March outreach payment. It was noted that the Diocese is matching any contributions to the Episcopal Relief and Development earmarked for Ukraine relief. It was decided to send both the March and April outreach payments to ERD for Ukraine as the match would have the effect of doubling our contribution.
2. Discussion on whether to continue the practice of wearing masks to “in church” services. Decided that this would no longer be required but that anyone who would prefer to continue is welcome to do so.
3. We have been approached by the Afton Youth Sports Organization to help support their summer baseball program. Decided to support up to \$500. Dan Vail to contact them and discuss which level we would like to go with, outfield fence sign or uniform lettering.
4. The recent death of Marion Diehl was acknowledged, and vestry members related fond memories of Marion and all that she has done for St. Ann’s over many years and sent their sincere condolences to her family.
5. Approved Fr. David’s vacation request. Holy Week services were reviewed. Will be Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, at 7:00 p.m. Easter Sunrise service will be at North Afton Methodist Church. May breakfast will be at Hope Church.
6. We will not have a Mother’s Day breakfast this year.
7. Vestry members asked to start thinking about delegates for this year’s Diocesan Convention.
8. Treasurer’s report was positive. We are holding our own. Thanks, be go God.

EMBRACING THE ONE WHO EMBRACES US

I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth, I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

Christian apologist C.S. Lewis observed, “A person’s spiritual health is exactly proportional to his love for God.” If we are to enjoy the spiritual health God intends for us, we should keep Lewis’s words in mind. In seeking that spiritual health by developing our love for God, it also will help us to remember something Corrie ten Boom said: “A bird does not know it can fly before it uses its wings. We learn God’s love in our hearts as soon as we act upon it.” She understood that whenever we worship God with our hearts and our minds, we are blessed by our love for Him and His loves for us. Today let us embrace the One who embraces us. He deserves no less.

Life in God is a great big hug that lasts forever!

Touched with Joy

There is not one of us whose life has not already been touched somewhere with joy, so that in order to make it real to us, to show it forth, it should be enough for Jesus simply to remind us of it, to make us remember the joyous moments of our own lives.

Yet this is not easy because, ironically enough, these are likely to be precisely the moments that we do not associate with religion. We tend to think that joy is not only not properly religious but that it is even the opposite of religion. We tend to think that religion is sitting stiff and antiseptic and a little bored.

We need to be reminded that at its heart Christianity is joy and that laughter and freedom and the reaching out of arms are the essence of it. We need to be reminded, too, that joy is not the same as happiness. Happiness is man-made—a happy home, a happy marriage, a happy relationship with our friends and within our jobs. We work for these things, and if we are careful and wise and lucky, we can usually achieve them.

But we never take credit for our moments of joy because we know that they are not man-made and that we are never really responsible for them. They come when they come. They are always sudden and quick and unrepeatable.

The unspeakable joy sometimes of just being alive. The miracle sometimes of being just who we are with the blue sky and the green grass, the faces of our friends and the waves of the ocean, being just what they are. The joy of release, of being suddenly well when before we were sick, of being forgiven when before we were ashamed and afraid of finding ourselves loved when we were lost and alone. The joy of love, which is the joy of the flesh as well as the spirit.

Joy is always all-encompassing; there is nothing of us left over to hate with or to be afraid with, to feel guilty with or to be selfish about. Joy is where the whole being is pointed in one direction, and it is something that by its nature a person never hoards but always wants to share. The second thing is that joy is a mystery because it can happen anywhere, anytime, even under the most unpromising circumstances, even in the midst of suffering, with tears in its eyes. Even nailed to a tree.

What Jesus is saying is that we are made for joy and that anyone who is truly joyous has a right to say that he is doing God's will on this earth. Where you have known joy, you have known Him.

Frederick Buechner (1926)

I see children as kites

I see children as kites. You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground. You run with them until you're both breathless...they crash...you add a longer tail...they hit the rooftop...you pluck them out of the spout. You patch and comfort, adjust and teach. You watch them lifted by the wind and assure them that someday they'll fly. Finally, they are airborne, but they need more string, and you keep letting it out. With each twist of the ball of twine, there is a sadness that goes with the joy because the kite becomes more distant, and somehow you know that it won't be long before that beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that bound you together and soar as it was meant to soar...free and alone.

Only then do you know that you did your job. *Erma Bombeck*

Driving through Alabama, a man was listening to a country preacher on the car radio. The preacher, with a country "twang" admitted that he had trouble with drugs when he was young.

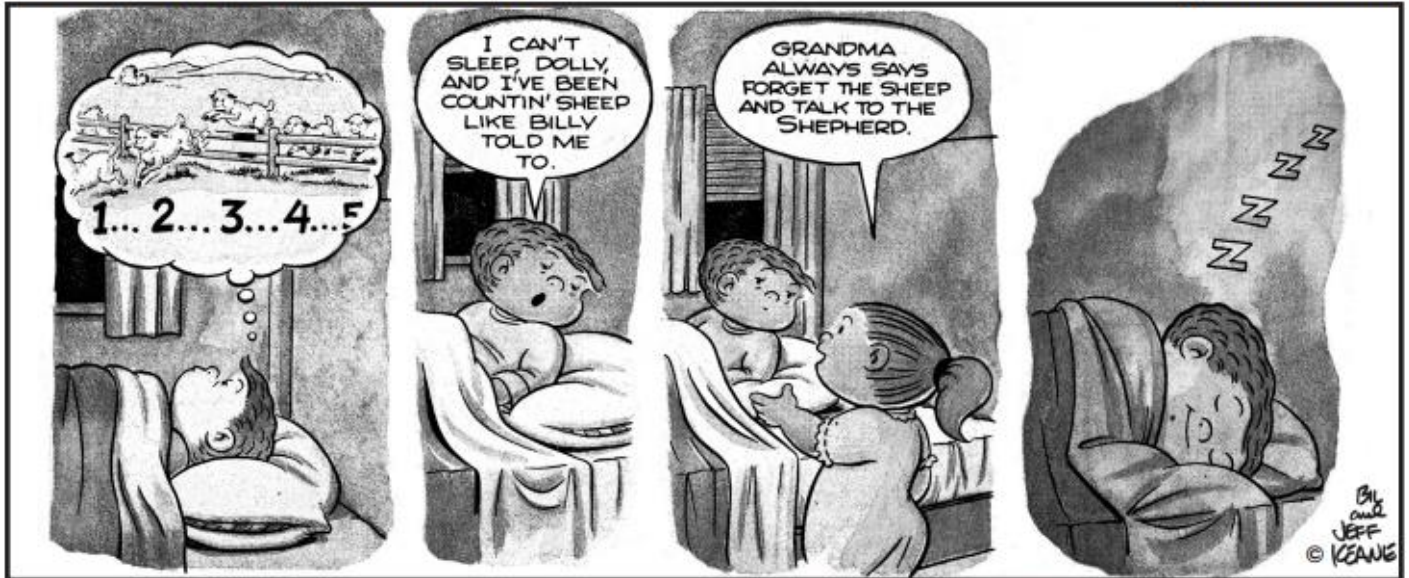
"My Momma drug me to church every Sunday," he said.

After a father scolded his 8-year-old son for being so unruly, the boy packed some of his clothes and his piggy bank and announced: "I'm running away from home!" The father calmly asked, "And what will you do when you get hungry?" "Then I'll come home and eat," the child replied. "And what if you find yourself out of money?" the father asked. "I will come home and get some," the boy answered. "And what if your clothes get dirty?" the father asked. "Then I'll come home and let Mommy wash them," the boy replied. The father turned to the mother and exclaimed, "This kid is not running away from home; he's going to college."

"Try an attitude of gratitude today."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil and Jeff Keane



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"Conscience is when God sends a text to your head."

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Hymns for Seasoned Citizens

- "The Old Rugged Face"
- "It is Well with my Soul, But my Knees Hurt"
- "Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing"
- "Just a Slower Walk with Thee"
- "Give Me that Old Timers' Religion"

– via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
Dover, DE



The Final Word

Peace: 1 Isaiah 43:2 – *“When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.”*

If you were navigating in strange waters or tracking through the wilderness, you would feel at peace with a competent navigator. As we move through spiritual territory that’s frightening, new to us, or full of trouble, what a comfort and support to have the Lord God, creator of peace, walking with us. He knows the way!

NLT - GEZ

St. Ann’s Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 22
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SHARING GOD’S LOVE IN OUR
COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY
AND ACTION

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman
Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

