

**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 cannot be reached, please contact one of the wardens.

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



January! The start of another new year! I pray that 2022 fills your lives with many blessings. Lord willing, this year we may very well see Covid fading into the history books. As I write this, the information we're learning about the Omicron variant does seem as though it might be Covid's last hurrah. Lord have mercy, I hope so! Maybe it's because it's January. Maybe it's because we may be seeing the end of the scourge of Covid. Maybe it's because while Sophia's been home from college, we've had interesting conversations and I've learned a lot about the creation myths of other cultures. Maybe it's all of these taken together, but I've been thinking a lot about new beginnings. Beginnings and new beginnings. Wonderful concepts that play important roles in our faith. Christmas, of course, was a brand-new beginning of God's relationship to humanity – in the Incarnation, God became human and lived among us and so established an entirely new relationship with us. But what about the most important event for our faith? What about Easter? It seems to me that Easter is also a brand-new beginning; or rather, Easter brought about many new beginnings.

The first disciples personally witnessed God's unfathomable power to raise the dead to life. The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel spoke about such a thing happening, but the first disciples witnessed it. This personal confirmation of God's power radically changed the disciples. It was literally physical proof that not even death could overcome God's will for God's creation. And so, with the utmost confidence they went about spreading the Good News of God's work in and through Jesus Christ.

In these, and in so very many other ways, God is the premier author of new beginnings. Now, since we know God has power to renew, I wonder what would happen if when we make our New Year's resolutions, we invite God into our decision-making process and ask God for guidance and strength. New Year's resolutions can be fun; but they can also be opportunities for positive, life-changing renewals. And with God's help, all things are possible.

Bless each and every one of you this new year!

**JANUARY 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](mailto:Bottom415@aol.com), Yes, the “zoom” service is different, but change is what life is all about.

During the months of January and February, Zoom services will take place on Morning Prayer Sundays. Holy Eucharist Sundays will take place in the church. At this time, MASKS ARE REQUIRED for in church services. If you forget your mask, extras are available at the back of the church. In the case of severe weather conditions, phone contact will be made if a service is cancelled.

**Service Schedule**

Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Jan 2	HC	B.Vail				B. Vail
Jan 9	MP	ZOOM 9am				
Jan 16	HC	J.Rettberg				B.Vail
Jan 23	MP	ZOOM 9am				
Jan 30	MP	ZOOM 9am				
Feb 6	HC	T.Tallmadge				T.Tallmadge

**Morning Prayer Leaders****/Food Pantry****ZOOM ONLY****Lectionary (Year B)**

		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Jan 2		Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 84 or 84:1-8	Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a	Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 or Luke 2:41-52 or Matthew 2:1-12
Jan 9		Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan 16		Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Jan 23		Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Jan 30		Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30 Psalm 71:1-6	Luke 4:21-30
Feb 6		Isaiah 6:1-8, [9-13]	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11



Altar Duty for the month of **JANUARY** is Carol Cimini, 607-693-2907 and Betty Vail, 607-639-1201. If you are giving flowers in memory of a loved one, please notify Betty Vail 639-1201, no later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday

St. Ann's Prayer List for *January 2022*

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. *"We are trying to be sure that our prayer list is as updated as possible and don't want to remove someone that should be on it."* 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/three months unless updated.

SHORT TERM

Raevin  
Eileen  
Anne  
Pat  
Melrose  
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 Dakota  
Bonnie Hailey  
Richard Joan  
Nate Bobbi  
Marion Thurston  
Fred Terra  
Bill Barbara  
Tyler

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins –  
Pete and Carol Vail  
Joyce Whitney  
Marion Diehl  
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 Briella Harding  
13 Peter Vail  
15 Tyler Wright  
20 Ron Sherman  
27 Cindy Sherman

*Anniversaries*

Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary. Call 607-343-1301 or email: [cttallmadg@aol.com](mailto:cttallmadg@aol.com)

**CHURCH****TERMS**

**EPIPHANY** – Greek, "to show forth." This season begins on January 6 and commemorates the showing forth of the Infant Jesus to the Wise Men, the first Gentiles to worship Him. Depending on the date of Easter, there may be as many as six Sundays or as few as one in the Epiphany Season.



**December 19, 2021**

Meeting was short and held on Zoom. Voted to send \$500 to Episcopal Relief and Development earmarked for victims of the tornadoes in the U. S. Accepted, with sincere thanks, a generous donation received from two friends of St. Ann's. Acknowledgement to be sent. Accepted with sincere thanks a generous donation from a friend of St. Ann's for work in kind. Discussed plans for services for January and February. Acknowledgement to be sent. Reviewed financial situation with treasurer. We are holding our own. Thanks be to God.



### BEYOND WORRY

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you.

1 Peter 5:7 NLT

Because life is sometimes difficult, and because we have understandable fears about the uncertainty of the future, we worry. At times we may find ourselves fretting over the countless details of everyday life. We may worry about our relationships, our finances, our health, or any number of potential problems—some large and some small.

If you're a worrier by nature, it's probably time to reconsider the way you think. Perhaps you've formed the unfortunate habit of focusing too intently on negative aspects of life and spending too little time counting your blessings. If so, take your worries to God—and leave them there. When you do, you'll learn to worry a little less and to trust God a little more—and that's as it should be, because God is trustworthy, you are protected, and your future can be intensely bright.

*A ruffled mind makes a restless pillow.*

*Charlotte Bronte*



**Christmas Creed from Latin America (*Author anonymous*)  
- or Recipe for Becoming God's Light**

I believe in Jesus Christ  
and in the power of the gospel, which began in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a small village,  
of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign,  
and for whom there was no room at the inn.

I believe in the one whose life changed the course of history,  
for whom the kings of the earth had no power,  
and who was not understood by the proud.

I believe in the one to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged,  
the afflicted, the sick, the blind, the leprous gave welcome,  
and accepted as Lord and Savior.

I believe in the one who with love changed the hearts of the proud  
and with his life showed that it is more important to serve than to be served  
and that the greatest joy is giving your life for others.

I believe in peace, which is not the absence of war,  
but justice among all peoples and nations  
and love among all.

I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness,  
and the transforming power of the gospel.

I believe that Christmas is strength and power,  
and that this world can change  
if with humility and faith we kneel before the manger.

I believe that I must be the first one to do so.





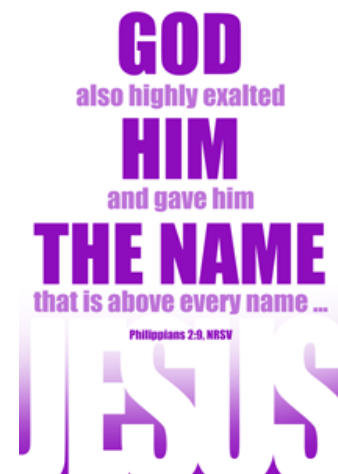
### Why Do We Need Jesus?

*You and I were created to live in a relationship with God. Until we find that relationship there will always be something missing in our lives. As a result, we are often aware of a gap. One rock singer describes it by saying: "I've got an emptiness deep inside." A woman once wrote me of "a deep deep, void." Another young girl spoke of "a chunk missing in her soul." People try to fill this emptiness in various ways. Some try to close the gap with money—but that does not satisfy. Aristotle Onassis, who was one of the richest men in the world, said at the end of his life, 'Millions do not always add up to what a man or woman need out of life.' Others try drugs or excess alcohol or sexual promiscuity. One person said that "These things provide instant gratification, but they leave you feeling hollow afterwards." Still others try hard work, music, or sports, while others seek success. There may not be anything wrong with these in themselves, but they do not satisfy that hunger deep inside every human being.*

*Even the closest human relationships, wonderful though they are, do not in themselves satisfy this "emptiness deep inside." Nothing will fill this gap except the relationship with God for which we were made.*

*According to the New Testament, the reason for this emptiness is that men and women have turned their backs on God. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." He is the only one who can satisfy our deepest hunger because He is the one who makes it possible for our relationship with God to be restored. He supplied the answers to our deepest needs.*

*From: "Why Jesus" by Nicky Gumbel*



## The Final Word

**Courage: Esther 3:2 –** *All the king's officials would bow down before Haman to show him respect whenever he passed by, for so the king had commanded. But Mordecai refused to bow down or show him respect.*

Mordecai's determined courage came from his faith in God. He did not take a poll first to determine the safest or most popular course of action. He had the courage to stand alone, doing what was right is usually in the minority, but to obey God is more important than to obey people. We should never let any person, institution or government take God's place in our lives. When people demand loyalties or duties of you that do not honor God, don't give in. Their causes will eventually die away. But our relationship to almighty God is forever.

NLT-GEZ

**St. Ann's Episcopal Church**  
**P. O. Box 22**  
**Afton, New York 13730**

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COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY  
AND ACTION

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

Address Label Here

