

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



Greetings! I pray this note finds you well!

This month I'd like to say a few words about my last note from early summer. Word got to me that some folks were confused and had some questions about it. I really didn't get very much detail on what the concerns were, so it makes it difficult to offer an explanation, but please, please, please, if you ever have any question at all about anything I write or preach, please, by all means ask me. Even though I may be a bit enthusiastic in those things, I sincerely try to listen to other voices and concerns. I certainly am not the be-all, end-all of Christian thinking. There is always room for growth for every one of us and in preaching and the newsletter, time and space are very big constraints. The editors of the newsletters prefer me to keep my piece to 1 page. That can make it very difficult to explain my thoughts accurately and fully.

One concern that was shared with me was that I did not seem to present any explicit spiritual lesson. I was a little shocked at that concern because it seemed to me that if I accurately presented the current situation the Christian faith finds itself faced with here in the USA, then it's a deeply spiritual problem of how we can present ourselves as the caring, loving, nurturing people Jesus calls us to be when most Americans now view Christians in a very negative light. Specifically, the spiritual lesson seems to me that we, now more than ever, really need to search our hearts and pray for guidance on how to represent Christ more accurately to a world that so desperately needs to be loved and genuinely cared for.

As I spent the last few weeks considering what I wrote and what I was told, a couple things strike me as important to make clear. Points I couldn't include in the message. First and foremost, I want to make it clear that I'm absolutely convinced (so it will be very difficult to convince me otherwise) that **both** pro-choice and pro-life Christians can both be completely faithful Christians. The issue as I see it is not which side, you're on. The key issue is how you act upon that conviction. Scripture provides us with many fine examples of how to act in accord with our beliefs.

Well, it seems the problem of too little space has once again presented itself. There are so many things that we could talk about, so again, please, if you ever have any question at all about what I write or preach, please don't hesitate to email, call or text. And may God bless you as you are a blessing to others!

SEPTEMBER 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. Bettom415@aol.com, Yes, the “zoom” service is different, but change is what life is all about.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Acolytes	
Sept 4	HC	Denise Weiber	Denise Weiber	Denise Weiber	
Sept 11	MP	Carol Tarvin	Carol Tarvin	Betty Vail	
Sept 18	HC	Denise Weiber	Denise Weiber	Denise Weiber	
Sept 25	MP	Carol Cimini	Carol Cimini	Betty Vail	
Oct 2	HC	Judy Rettberg	Judy Rettberg	Denise Weiber	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalms	New Testament	Gospel
Sept 4	HC	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
Sept 11	MP	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	Psalm 14	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
Sept 18	HC	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1	Psalm 79:1-9	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
Sept 25	MP	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15	Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31
Oct 2	HC	Lamentations 1:1-6	Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:

September 11 – J.Rettberg/C.Cimini

September 25 – B.Vail/A.Sabanos

The flowers on the Altar September 4th are in loving memory of Frank and Gladys Rettberg from their children Judy and Tom Rettberg.



Altar Duty for the month of September is Judy Rettberg 607-208-4023.

If you desire flowers on the Altar in memory of loved ones, please call Betty Vail at 607-639-1201.

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

We are trying to keep our prayer list updated the best way possible. To do that, please review the lists below and contact us with changes. Our lists are only as good as the information provided to us. 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		Long Term			
Raevin	Dakota	Carol	Peter	Fr. David Hanselman	St. Paul's Church
Thurston	Joan	Bobbi	Joyce	Fr. Steven White	St. Andrews's Church
Dorothy	Arthur	Mya	Marsha	Pastor Becky	St. Matthews's Church
		Jason	Holly	Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Peter's Church
		Cindy	Richard	The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	Zion Church
		David	Bonnie	Bishop Michael Curry	Message Ministries
		Terra	Hailey	The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph	The General Theological Seminary
		Doc		Emanuel Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
				Epiphany Church	



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

9/13 Toni Weller
9/15 Father Ralph
9/16 Cindy Trick
9/19 Calvin Tallmadge
9/26 Denise Wieber

**Anniversaries**

9/22 Milton & Marisa Harding
9/30 Tom & Betty Vail

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

**CHURCH TERMS**

CHURCH TERMS: NIMBUS – Latin, “cloud.” A halo of light behind the head of a figure in a painting or a piece of statuary. The Virgin Mary is portrayed with a ring of stars around her head, and saints and martyrs have a disk-shaped nimbus. For God the Father, it is triangular, and for God the Son, it may be a ring. For those still living, the nimbus is square or oblong.



Please mark your calendars for **cleaning the brass** at St. Ann's on **October 16th**.

We need about 4-5 people to help with this ministry, and it usually takes about an hour or less. Many hands make for light work!! Thank you to everyone who have assisted in the past.



Vestry will resume meeting on Sept 18th. Please try to attend as we have much to discuss.

- Mado Cimini and Artie Sabanos for running the Zoom services
- All who prepare coffee hours after the service
- Lay readers who read lessons and conduct services
- Everyone who contributes to the operation of St. Ann's
- Artie Sabanos and Tom Vail for trimming the shrubs



Everyone is invited to participate in bringing our newsletter to life. If you have an opinion, article, idea, event, organization, or any other relevant topic of interest, please let us know. This is everyone's newsletter; we welcome your participation. E-Mail [Tracey Tallmadge](#) or [Dan Vail](#) if you have some input, you would like printed.

Asking and Receiving

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find. Luke 11:9 NIV

Sometimes, amid the demands and the frustrations of daily life, we forget to slow down long enough to talk with God. Instead of turning our thoughts and prayers to Him, we rely entirely on our own resources, with decidedly mixed results. Or, instead of praying for strength, we seek to manufacture it within ourselves, only to find that lasting strength remains elusive.

Are you in need? Ask God to sustain you. And while you are making requests, do not be afraid to ask for the loving support of your family and friends. When you ask for help, you are likely to receive it. But if you are unwilling to ask, why should you expect to receive any?

When the going gets tough, remember that help is on the way. All you must do is ask.

God will help us become the people we are meant to be, if only we will ask Him.

Laus Deo

On the aluminum cap, atop the Washington Monument in Washington, D. C., are displayed two words: **Laus Deo**. No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument are unaware they are even there and for that matter, could not care less. These words have been there for many years; they are 555 feet, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking the sixty-nine square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, capital of the United States of America.

Laus Deo! Two insignificant, unnoticed words. Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world. So, what do those two words, in Latin, composed of just four syllables and only 7 seven letters, mean? Very simply, they say, **"Praise be to God."** Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty – five years finally to cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation, **Laus Deo, "Praise be to God Laus Deo!**

A United Church in a Divided Time
The Rt. Rev'd Gregory O. Brewer, Bishop of
The Diocese of Central Florida

Recently I found a quote online that I thought fitting for this time in our history: “No church gravitates toward unity. We have to contend for unity against the gravitational pull toward selfishness and hypocrisy”

But in our contentious culture, such words can be easily misunderstood. Contending for unity does not mean drawing battle lines to separate ourselves from those who disagree with us. You will not find that course of action supported by the Gospel.

Instead and quite remarkably, the Gospel calls us not to set up battle lines against anyone. We are called to love even our enemies. The only foes with which we contend are the supernatural forces of darkness—not any of our fellow human beings. We follow Christ, who invites us to come to him who is “gentle and humble in heart” and “gives rest to our souls”

To contend for unity invites us into a posture different from “cancel culture” and “us versus them.” Instead, it calls us to take the posture of a curious listener and a willingness to see the human being behind the opinion we abhor. So, instead of disagreeing with someone straightaway, perhaps the better strategy is to ask a question. Learn more about what they mean. Ask what has led them to form the position. Pray for them. Learn with them. To take that position is not an abdication of your own: it is a way to build bridges with those with whom you disagree. You won’t find that strategy on television or in much political debate. However, you may meet people who have used their opinions to isolate themselves and are hungry for connections, but the only way they know how to relate is to declare and defend their positions.

As I see it, various recent events have caused us to live more in isolation today than I can remember. And it’s not just the coronavirus or even politics. So many circumstances have divided us along lines of race, neighborhood, and economics. And institutions such as the civic town hall and even the Church have waned in influence, so we are less likely than ever to be friends with people unlike us. We have thus lost the sense of the “common good” and have instead moved to a political party’s vision for the common good. (a vast difference).

Politics used to be a place where we were willing to work through differences around a democratic process that presumed tolerance, the capacity to agree to disagree and political compromise in the service of a greater good: the unity of its citizens.

But today, “the common good” of society has become individualized to the “preferred good” of some of its citizens at the expense of others. So all of us fight for the triumph of our preferred vision, wanting more than anything for “our side” to win. This preferred way of doing politics and social order has brought us to the crisis that exists today. It’s a crisis of isolation, fear, anger at others, and a fight to preserve “our way of life.”

Jesus gives us a different vision. We are called to receive a unity God is giving us in Jesus Christ and find ways to live out that unity – in the midst of often-significant differences. This vision of unity is based on what we have received in Jesus: his love, his forgiveness, and his triumph over sin, disease, poverty, and division.

One of last year’s most important events, for me, was attending a screening of the documentary “Emanuel,” produced by Viola Davis and Steph Curry. It tells the story of the horrific tragedy that occurred when Dylan Roof opened fire on a prayer meeting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC., killing nine people.

But the story of Emanuel Church tells about more than a tragedy. It also shares how the congregants made the decision as a church to forgive. In fact, when Dylan Roof met with the relatives of those who had died, their united message was “We forgive you. Repent and believe.” Their grace filled actions affirmed the truth of their message. The courageous witness of those Christians shocked a nation and caused many non believers to sit up and take notice. This was the unity of the Gospel in action.

Such a church, united in the Gospel, is the only kind of church that can be a true force for good in our society. This is not a self-serving church, but a serving church -- a church that has something to offer in the face of the deep divisions all around us. We will not always agree, but God help us to be a people who are committed to the witness of unity in this hostile and divided world.

“They begin the Evening News with ‘Good Evening’ then proceed to tell why it isn’t.”

Winston Churchill

Signs and wonders

Sign outside St. Anne's by the Fields Episcopal Church, Ankeny, IA:

"Like Halloween?
You'll love our Holy Ghost."

– via Rev. Dale Schoening
Madrid, IA

Hair salon, next to Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church, in Campbell, OH, is named "Paulette's Hair-A-Cey."

Also in Campbell, OH, is a car wash named "Immaculate Reflections."

– via Fr. John Trimbur
Poland, OH

Sign outside Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church:

"Be the kind of person
your pet thinks you are."

– via Rev. Harry Mahoney
Dedham, MA

Sign outside St. James Episcopal Church, Grosse Ile, MI:

"Tweet others as you want to be
tweeted."

– via David Hartwell
Grosse Ile, MI

God's kids say & do the funniest things

The young couple invited their elderly pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having.

"Goat," the little boy replied.

"Goat?" replied the started man of the cloth, "Are you sure about that?"

"Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.'"

– via Fr. John Trimbur
Poland, OH



Pastor Wes Gately of the Kenton (DE) United Methodist Church was delivering the children's message, based on Jesus' miracle of the feeding of the 5,000, when he commented, "So all they had were five loaves of bread and two fish. What do you supposed you would do with that?"

One little boy answered: "Make sandwiches!"

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



From the Elmira, NY, Daily Advertiser, March 23, 1883:

"A little girl in Spencer, NY, who attended Sunday school was greatly puzzled by one line of a hymn that was sung, which she understood as 'Mike rime's a bird, an I long bath been.' With the help of a hymn book, she discovered the line read: 'My crimes a burden, long hath been.'"

– via Bob White
Owego, NY



The Final Word



Gentleness: Colossians 3:13 – *“You must make allowances for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you....”*

In a world given to violence, the concept of gentleness is most welcome. There is peace in the heart of a gentle person, a calmness that brings peace to the hearts of those around him. Married persons long for that quality in their mates. Businesspeople appreciate a gentle spirit in negotiation. Church meetings run more smoothly when a spirit of gentleness is present. Jesus was gentle. Did this rob him of manliness? No. True manliness, and true femininity, is gentleness because it is power under control. The Bible calls us to be gentle in our dealings with others, not only because it is kin and right, but because it is modeling one of the characteristics of Christ.

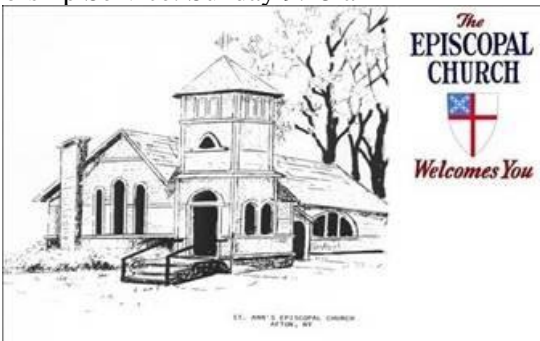
NLT - GEZ

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
Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

 **SEPTEMBER** 2022