

The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY

<http://www.stannsafortny.org>

Member of the Chenango District

August 2015

Clergy The Reverend

Fr. David A. Hanselman

761-4601 cell

656-9502 office

Wardens:

-Betty Vail

639-1201

-Tracey Tallmadge

343-1301

In an emergency and Fr. David can't be reached, please contact one of the wardens.

From Fr. Dave



Greetings once again!

File this one under - equipping the saints:

It seems the more conservative branches of Christianity are setting their sites on any group they think is "progressive Christian". Eight conservative churches in Fountain Hills, Arizona have ganged up on a local "progressive" United Methodist church. My particular interest for you all is that you become aware that Episcopalians are often targeted as progressive. While there's no way to address all the many complaints and issues involved, I would like to offer one observation based upon one common criticism of the Episcopal Church.

It's often been said that the Episcopal Church blindly accepts the norms of the surrounding culture. I'd like to offer a couple touchstones to understand just how the earliest Christians have embraced or refused to embrace certain aspects of the culture surrounding them.

To begin - the earliest letters were not written in some esoteric language of some mysterious religion. The earliest letters were written in the most popular language of the time - Koine Greek - the "language of the marketplace". That's right the language of the "marketplace".

Secondly - two major developments during St Paul's ministry - the realization that food purity and circumcision were no longer necessary. Two of the most distinguishing things that set Jewish folks apart from the surrounding culture. It took some time to debate, but it was a revolutionary step for the earliest Christians to see that food purity and circumcision were not essential components of God's acceptance. Truly a remarkably profound embrace of the surrounding culture.

Lastly, something I've been including in my sermons the past few weeks, St Paul also gives us knowledge of the "fruits of the spirit". Galatians is a remarkable letter warning about adherence to "the law" of the Old Testament (Gal 5:4 - "You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ") and providing guidance on how to determine what in the surrounding culture is truly and undeniably from God. Paul lived in a very confusing time for people seeking to be holy and acceptable. The fruits of the spirit guided them and us into confidence that we're on God's side.

If you desire Father David to visit you or give you a call, please contact him at: (607) 761-4601 or (607) 656-9502.



Vestry Meeting
- August 16th
Auditors will be present
to give the vestry their
report.

Service Schedule

	<u>Date</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
MP	Aug 2	B.Wright	C.Tarvin	TV	----	B.Vail
MP	Aug 9	P.Tucker	D.Becker	BV	----	D.Becker
HC	Aug 16	T.Tallmadge	J.Proffitt	JP	TT	Tracey/B.Vail
MP	Aug 23	T.Vail	C.Tarvin	BV	----	J.Proffitt
MP	Aug 30	B.Vail	D.Vail	DV	----	A.Vail
HC	Sept 6	T.Vail	P.Tucker	----	BV	B.Vail

Morning Prayer:

August 2 - D.Becker & M.Harding

August 9 - B.Vail

August 23 - B.Wright/B.Vail

August 30 - J.Proffitt/B.Vail

Food Pantry:

August 10 - 5-7p.m. - Pat & Al Tucker

August 12 - 9-11a.m. - B.Vail & H. Cottell

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!

Lectionary (Year B)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Aug. 2 10 Pentecost	51:1—13	2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a	Ephesians 4:1—16	John 6:24— 35
Aug. 9 11 Pentecost	130	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
Aug. 16 12 Pentecost	111	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
Aug. 23 13 Pentecost	84	1 Kings 8:[1, 6, 10-11], 22-30, 41-43	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
Aug. 30 14 Pentecost	45:1-2, 7-10	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Sept. 6 15 Pentecost	125	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	James 2:1-10, [11-13], 14-17	Mark 7:24-37

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duty – Altar Guild for the month of August - Grace Affuso - 639-2961 and Betty Vail 639-1201. If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the Altar on a particular Sunday, call Betty Vail at 639-1201. If you are giving flowers in memory of a loved one, please notify Pete Vail (607)639-1444 no later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that he can include a notice in the bulletin.

In Need of Prayer

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.

Carol Peter Michele Joyce Pat Mya Holly Cindy Lou Toni Lois Sally Clifford
 Richard Pastor Sue Andrea Adrianna Fr. Chuck Taylor Fr. David Hanselman Fr. Bruce
 MacDuffie Bishop "Skip" Adams Pope Francis Zion Church St. Paul's Church The General Theological
 Seminary of the Episcopal Church The vestry of St. Ann's

The following prayer is suggested by Bishop Skip. It 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, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Vestry Highlights

1. Discussed possible project to brighten the holidays for Kelsey Manor residents.
2. Discussed the possibility of installing multi-media equipment in the church to use with services. Also had a report from Pete Vail on a possible update of our "Synthia" organ device. There have been many improvements since the purchase of our present model.
3. The auditors requested by the Diocese will report to the Vestry at our August meeting on August 16th.
4. Discussed a possible program for the "Hope for Afton" day. Reviewed vestry terms that expire this year. Fr. David noted that the delegates for Diocese convention for next year will be voting on candidates for a new Bishop for the Diocese of Central New York.
5. Received a report on the status of the Fay Todd estate.
6. Clergy and laity conference day to be Tuesday, October 6th.
7. Received financial report from the treasurer. We are holding our own financially.

Kudos



THANKS! - All who provide us with Coffee Hour.

THANKS! - Tom and Duane for repairing and painting the stained glass window facing the parking lot.

***Note:** If you know of one or more people who we should thank in this column, please pass that information on to Pete Vail or Jody Proffitt. We don't want*

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"No, Dolly, our father art downstairs watching TV."

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

SUNDAY AT ST. ANNS WITH YOUTH AND CHILDREN

As I began Children Sermon Garret was sitting beside me.

As I read the children sermon, reaching the part which quotes John 6 1-15; Jesus said to Phillip, "Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?" Phillip answered him, "six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of the to get a little bite." Before continuing I heard this quiet voice begin to tell about a boy with 5 loaves of bread. I was so excited I looked at him with a surprised face, he stopped. I told him your right, encouraging him to continue telling the story when I moved the microphone in front of him. And Garrett finished with the boy having two fish.

Reflecting back on a day I was sitting next to Father Ralph during coffee hour, he looked around the Parish Hall and with a bright smile on his face he said "look at the children and babies, this church is ALIVE.

BISHOP SEARCH COMMITTEE

Father David has been asked to be on the Bishop search committee. Please keep Fr. David and the other search committee members in your prayers

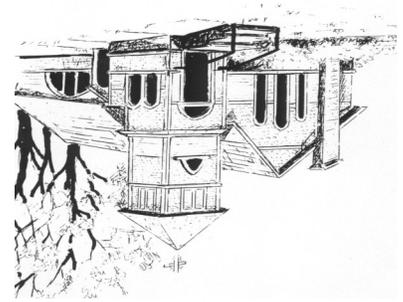
A History of St. Ann's Church "continued"

In April 1859, a Sunday School was opened which numbered during the term ended Christmas, some 28 scholars; in 1860 about 40 and in 1861 from various causes, but 14. The Bishop visited the congregation for the first time on September 11, 1859, when two were confirmed, in the presence of a crowded congregation. The consent of the Bishop having been obtained November 29, 1859, legal notice of a meeting for organizing the parish was given on the 8th. and 15th. of January 1860. On January 16th. a meeting was held in the Chapel when the persons present incorporated themselves under the name and title of "The Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of St. Ann's church in the Town of Afton, Chenango County." John Russell and Harrison Caswell were elected Wardens; and William Wilkinson, Zael Woodard, Wright Deer, George Landers, Eli M. Shay, Daniel Carpenter, Daniel A. Carpenter and Horace Jones, vestrymen. The Rev. W. A. Johnson was chosen Rector. A resolution was made in 1860 providing that "all monies for religious purposes in this parish be raised by weekly offerings in time of divine service. Whereas St. Ann's parish being a mission station and its missionary in receipt of a stipend of \$62.50, it is incumbent upon us in accordance with the laws of the Diocese to make contributions to the mission fund." Furthermore it was resolved that "after the expenses of the house are provided for, the balance of the offerings, be they less or more, constitute the salary of the Rector, provided said balance does not exceed the sum of \$100, any surplus to be at the disposal of the Vestry for Church purposes."

Apparently this did not work out too well, for in the minutes of 1861, we read, "A motion was made and seconded to change the order of supporting the parish from the weekly offering to subscriptions and the following committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions: D. A. Carpenter, William Wilkinson, Eli M. Shay."

In 1862, the Rev. W. A. Johnson resigned, and D. A. Carpenter offered the following resolution: that we make an effort to raise by subscription for the year 1863, the sum of \$100 for the support of preaching and incidental expenses of St. Ann's Church, Afton.

According to the minutes for June 25, 1866, a committee was appointed to locate a site for a church. At a meeting September 10, a committee was appointed to draft and circulate a subscription for the purpose of raising money to build a church and N. B. Stowell was appointed to see to getting a suitable stove for the church. Land for the church was given by Harrison R. Caswell. The cornerstone was laid in 1867. By October 1867, \$584 had been paid for lumber, the carpenter and the mason work on a new church. (to be continued next month)



Address label here

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Tracey Tallmadge

Wardens: Betty Vail

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR
COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY
AND ACTION

Afton, New York 13730

P. O. Box 22

St. Ann's Episcopal Church

The Final Word



...let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.

James 1:19—20, 22

The book of James, written by the half-brother of Jesus reads like a how-to manual on being a better Christian. The above excerpts from the Epistle lesson for 13 Pentecost are just two examples of James' wisdom.

The first could be paraphrased "Engage brain before putting mouth in gear." Too often when someone is talking to us, we are so busy thinking about what we're going to reply that we don't hear what the person is saying. Someone pointed out that God had a reason for giving us two ears and one mouth and that is we should listen twice as much as we should talk. Give it a try. You may find that you'll be looked at as an excellent conversationalist!

The second excerpt seems particularly appropriate this month having just completed the Chenango District's Youth Work Camp. What better example of Christian love in action, of being "doers of the word?" I daresay that most, if not all, of the problems of our culture could be solved if each and everyone of us became doers of the word. And, ironically, in the process of helping others in the name of Christ, we ourselves are changed for the better! Just read the letter on page 4 by Ty Stauber, one of the youth work project volunteers.

Fr. Ralph's suggestion of a St. Ann's multi-generational outreach program is an intriguing proposition. It could be a rewarding and life changing activity both for the "doers" and the receivers. One note of caution, however. Such an activity would require all of us to be "doers." Note that in his letter, James addresses "everyone," not just leaders or a core group. May God grant each of us the wisdom and grace to be "doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves."

PCV