

The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY
<http://www.stannsafortny.org>

Member of the Chenango District

December 2014

Clergy The Reverend

From Fr. Dave

Fr. David A. Hanselman

Greetings! Welcome Advent and the Christmas season!

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.

This month I'd like to share a short meditation. As we approach Christmas - the Celebration of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ - as we approach the commemoration of God's most precious gift to humanity, I ask you to consider your gifts to God.

There are two fundamental ways to think about our support of our parishes. On the one hand, we sometimes look at our offerings as our support for our parish - our part in paying the bills to "keep the church open." This approach can be seen in such statements as "the church is always asking for money." Or, "how can I be sure the church will take good care of my money?" This approach generally views our money as "my money."

The second fundamental way to think about our support for our parish, oddly enough, doesn't really view support of the parish as "supporting the parish." Rather, when we adopt the attitude that all we have is essentially God's, we see our support of our parish in terms of simply returning to God some of what God has given to us.

You see, in the first instance, it's really a matter of you making a gift to God. In the second, you're not giving God a gift, you're simply responding to all of God's many gifts in your life (including, your life).

No doubt you can easily guess which approach I opt for, but, it's not that I think the first approach is necessarily bad. I think it's almost always a good thing to support your parish! It can become a problem, though, if your pride in supporting your parish reaches such strength that you begin to think it's YOUR parish more than it's GOD's parish.

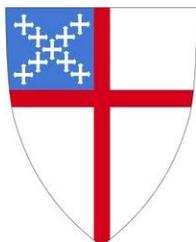
We must never forget that we are freely giving ourselves to the God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. God doesn't force us to believe. In a very important way, God doesn't even need us to believe. When we pray that God's will be done, it is an expression of our hope and wish, not at all a matter of giving God permission. God will be reconciled with God's creation. We can either be on board with that and respond accordingly, or we can pridefully delude ourselves that God needs us more than we need God. Amen.



Make a Note

December 24th @
4:30 p.m. Christmas
Eve service at St.
Ann's

If you would like to order a poinsettia for the altar on Christmas eve in memory of a loved one please contact Betty @ 639-1201



Father Dave ✝

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

Editors Note:

Curiosity overcame me about Operation Christmas Child while working on the December newsletter. Because of skepticism festered by my occupation, questions began to plague me. I began to question whether Operation Christmas Child really makes a difference. While researching Operation Christmas Child using the internet I found some heart warming information.

Millions of lives will be touched by shoebox gifts this year. Each precious gift is carefully inspected and prepared for overseas shipment by caring people like you. Every shoebox gift delivered by Operation Christmas Child is a tangible expression of God's amazing love. But a shoebox is just the beginning. It also presents an opportunity in more than 100 countries for our church partners to invite children into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through The Greatest Journey.

<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/volunteer-with-occl/>

Matthew 28:18-20 New International Version (NIV)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**14 Yrs After Receiving Shoebox Gift, Filipino Girl Marries Boy Who Sent it**

When a young Filipino girl received a Christmas gift-filled shoebox in 2000, she couldn't have imagined that one day she would meet the 7-year-old boy from Idaho who packed the box in a small town 7000 miles away.

<http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/filipina-marries-boy-who-sent-shoebox/>

St. Ann's, Zion and St. Paul's youths groups unite at St. Ann's for "Operation Christmas Child"



YOUTH GROUP UNITES FOR "OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD"





146th Convention of the Diocese of Central New York



On Saturday, November 15, Jody and Sandy Proffitt Robin Felldin and Betty Vail, Terri Weir, Page Flanagan and Renee Orr; Zion Green and Father Dave attended the 146 Convention in Syracuse.

Resolutions that passed

- * Cost of living increase of 2.0%.
- * Support military veterans through fellowship and spiritual growth.
- * Amendment of Canon XVI, section 3(d), regarding write-in candidates for diocesan offices
- * 2015 Diocesan budget was approved.

Resolutions - <http://www.cnyepiscopal.org> under the **Current Events** tab.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD®

A Project of Samaritan's Purse®, Franklin Graham, President

Fact Sheet

Purpose:

- The world's largest Christmas project of its kind, Operation Christmas Child, uses gift-filled shoeboxes to share God's love in a tangible way with needy children around the world.

Scope:

- Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has collected and delivered more than **113 million** gift-filled shoeboxes to children in over 150 countries through Operation Christmas Child.
- In 2014, Samaritan's Purse hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another **10 million** children through the Operation Christmas Child project.
- Shoebox gifts are collected in the United States, Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.
- More than 500,000 volunteers worldwide, with more than 100,000 of those in the United States, are involved in collecting, shipping, and distributing shoebox gifts.

Process:

- Individuals, families, churches, and groups fill empty shoeboxes with gifts of toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and notes of encouragement.
- During **National Collection Week, Nov. 17-24**, Samaritan's Purse will collect the gift-filled shoeboxes at more than 4,000 drop-off sites in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.
- Operation Christmas Child also offers the opportunity year-round to pack personalized shoebox gifts online. Go to samaritanspurse.org and click on Operation Christmas Child to select toys and gift items, write a note of encouragement, and "pack" them in a shoebox.
- Shoebox gifts are prepared for overseas shipment at nine major processing centers across the United States—Atlanta; Baltimore; Boone, N.C.; Charlotte; Dallas; Denver; Honolulu; Minneapolis; and Southern California.
- Samaritan's Purse will deliver the gifts to children in more than 100 countries on six continents.
- Donors can find out the country where their gifts are delivered by creating shipping labels and using the donation form found at samaritanspurse.org. Click on "Pack a Shoebox" / "Follow-Your-Box Label."

Discipleship:

- More than 2.8 million children have participated in The Greatest Journey, the 12-lesson discipleship program created by Samaritan's Purse for children who receive Operation Christmas Child gift boxes. The Greatest Journey is one of the largest discipleship programs in the world, implemented through a global church network to help children know and follow Jesus Christ. **Media Resources:**
- samaritanspurse.org/newsroom

Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disaster, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Service Schedule

	<u>Date</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
HC	Dec 7	J.Proffitt	D.Vail	TV	CC	B.Vail/D.Vail
MP	Dec 14	C.Cimini	T.Tallmadge	AC	---	A.Cimini
HC	Dec 21	P.Tucker	R.Felldin	RF	BV	D.Becker/B.Vail
HC	Dec 24	Christmas Readings by Lay people			SP	B.Vail/J.Proffitt
					Torch Bearers	A.&G. Vail
MP	Dec 28	C.Cimini	D.Becker	AC	----	A.Cimini
HC	Jan 4	S.Proffitt	T.Vail	BV	SP	J.Proffitt/B.Vail

Morning Prayer:

Dec. 14 - B.Vail/T.Tallmadge

Dec. 28 - B.Vail/S.Proffitt

Church School:

Dec. 7 - T.Vail

Dec. 14 - S.Proffitt

Dec. 21 - R.Felldin

No Church School Dec. 28 and Jan. 4

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 A)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Dec 7 2 Advent	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Isaiah 40:1-11	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Dec 14 3 Advent	Psalm 126	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec 21 4 Advent	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Dec 28 1 Christmas	Psalm 147	Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3	Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7	John 1:1-18
Jan 4 2 Christmas	Psalm 84	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duty – : Sandy Proffitt (607)-437-9573; Betty Vail (607)-639-1201; Judy Rettberg (607)-208-4023. If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the Altar on a particular Sunday, call Betty Vail. 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 Vern Sally
 Clifford Ed Hromada Elliott Julia Richard Don Wieber Norma Ryan Rayne Pike Judy
 Amber Joe Smith Danny Wade Mike Wade Fr. Chuck Taylor Fr. David Hanselman Fr. Bruce
 MacDuffie Bishop "Skip" Adams Pope Francis Zion Church St. Paul's Church The General Theo-
 logical 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. \$200.00 to the VFW and \$200.00 Afton Community Chest for October and November Outreach.
2. Decided to give Christmas Gifts to Father Dave, Ron Sherman and Kathy Miller.
3. Christmas Parade Float theme GOD IS LIGHT.
4. Christmas Offering will go to the Seminary of Father Dave's choice.
5. Potluck and Secret Santa on December 14. Judy Rettberg will be organizing secret

Treasurer's Remarks

As of Nov. 25th, our cash flow continues to be positive at \$986.15. This is an approximate representation because we are still waiting for Zion, Greene to get their books up to date. In the meantime we have been making estimated payments to Zion to keep current our portion of Fr. Dave's support. The Fall UTO Ingathering amounted to \$202.56 given by 15 people. This compares to the Spring Ingathering which was \$208 given by 12 people. Remember that UTO's primary mission is to help people improve their prayer life by encouraging them to offer prayers of thanksgiving each time they add something to the UTO Blue Box. Boxes are available in the parish hall.

A Touch of Humor

Top 10 Reasons to be an Episcopalian

10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs.
8. Male and female God created them; male and female we ordain them.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. Pew aerobics.
5. Church year is color-coded.
4. Free wine on Sunday.
3. All of the pageantry - none of the guilt.
2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.

And the Number One reason to be an Episcopalian:

1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.

Kudos



THANKS! - Sandy Proffitt for making the Angels for the Angel Tree

THANKS! - Calvin and Tracey Tallmadge for wagon ride in Christmas Parade

THANKS! - Judy Rettberg for organizing Secret Santa

THANKS! - Altar Guild - Grace, Pat Judy, Tracey, Sandy, Betty, Robin, Sarah for who cleaning brass

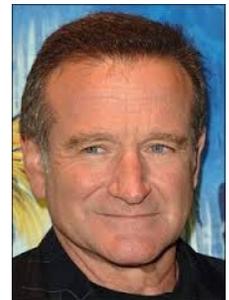
THANKS! - To the St. Ann's men who set up the Crèche (names not available at time of printing)

THANKS! - Sandy Proffitt, Dan and Kerri Vail for organizing the Operation Christmas Child at St. Ann's.

THANKS! - Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this organization.

THANKS! - Many thanks to the adults and children from Zion, Greene and St. Paul's, Oxford who helped out with Operation Christmas Child. Everyone had a wonderful afternoon.

***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 to miss anyone!*



(from the comedian Robin Williams, who is an Episcopalian, on a recent HBO special)

ST. ANN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
AFTON, NY



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



Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?' And the King will tell them, 'I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

Matthew 25: 37-40

Many are familiar with this portion of the Gospel reading appointed for the last Sunday in Pentecost. Jesus is describing what it will be like when the Son of Man returns. Clearly, he is saying that we will be held accountable for the way we have dealt throughout our lives with those who are less fortunate than we are.

It's interesting and probably not a coincidence that this reading comes during the time when

we are anticipating Thanksgiving Day, and thinking about what we will give back to God in thanksgiving for what He has given us. It is easy and tempting to think of this simply in terms of money. But if we do that, we have already missed the mark. For not only are we required to be good stewards of our treasure, but also of the time and the talents that God has given each of us. And this gets into how we live our lives.

Are we living examples of what it means to be a Christian? In our own town of Afton, people lack adequate food and drink. Are we supporting the Afton Food Pantry and St. Ann's Closet? Do we give of our time to help staff them? Do we warmly welcome strangers and newcomers who join us at St. Ann's? As a member of St. Ann's, are we doing our part to accomplish our mission: **Sharing God's love in our community through prayer, study and action?** Do we reach out in love to those less fortunate than ourselves? These are some of the things I'll think about this month as I consider how to respond to God in thanksgiving.

PCV