

The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY

Member of the Chenango District

February 2014

Clergy The Reverend 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.



Make a Note

-Feb. 16th: Vestry meets in parish hall following worship and coffee hour.

-March 5th is Ash Wed., the beginning of Lent. Watch for more details in the March issue of The Parish News and see additional info inside.

From Fr. Dave

Greetings!

I'm of a mind to keep this month's letter short and sweet. Hopefully the brevity will impress upon you the importance of my topic.

For our Lenten study this year (I know it begins in March, so there's time for you all to start planning your schedule for Wednesday nights at 6 pm to be at St. Ann's.) I've chosen a video series from former Bishop of Durham, England, N. I. Wright. It's entitled "Surprised by Hope." It's not only educational, but I've found it incredibly inspiring.

So, if there's no way you can make the Wed. Night meetings, please try to get the book. If you can't find the book at the library or can't afford it, I've got a copy I can lend out.

We are, at our very core, a people of hope. We are God's people and we pray daily that God's "kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Jesus Christ has given us a living, breathing example of how that is to be done. Let us be the light of Christ in this world.

Blessings to you all!

Fr. Dave

P. S. Some good news to report: I was finally able to successfully donate blood! I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and well-wishes and remind you all that blood is in very short supply. My biggest surprise, other than finally being able to donate, was that it was really an enjoyable experience... just a little feeling of being pinched at the beginning but that faded. The people were very nice and the snacks were very good. The need for blood is great and I can testify that donating is easy to do. Give it some serious thought.

A mother was teaching her three-year-old daughter the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she repeated it after her mother. One night she said she was ready to try it on her own. Mother glowed with pride and listened to each word right up to the end. "And lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail. Amen"

Service Schedule

	<u>Date</u>	<u>OT Reader</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
HC	Feb 2	C. Cimini	A. Cimini	RF	C. Cimini	A. Cimini/B. Vail
MP	Feb 9	R. Felldin	J. Proffitt	PV	---	J. Proffitt
HC	Feb 16	M. Harding	D. Becker	JP	D. Becker	B. Vail/T. Tallmadge
MP	Feb 23	S. Proffitt	J. Rettberg	BV	---	D. Becker
HC	Mar 2	J. Proffitt	D. Vail	TV	J. Rettberg	B. Vail/J. Proffitt

Holy Eucharist celebrated on February 2 – 16 – March 2. Morning Prayer conducted on February 9 - 23.

Church School: Feb. 2—M. Kelly, Feb. 9—K. Vail, Feb. 16—T. Vail, Feb. 23—B. Vail, Mar. 2— S. Proffitt

Morning Prayer Leaders: Feb 9—D. Becker/M. Harding, Feb 23—T. Tallmadge/R. Felldin

MANY THANKS TO THOSE ON THE SCHEDULE ABOVE. YOUR SERVICE TO ST. ANN'S IS APPRECIATED!

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!

Revised Common Lectionary (Year A)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Feb. 2 The Presentation	84	Malachi 3:1-4	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Feb. 9 Epiphany 5	112:1-9, (10)	Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)	1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)	Matthew 5:13-20
Feb. 16 Epiphany 6	119:1-8	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
Feb. 23 Epiphany 7	119:33-40	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18	1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23	Matthew 5:38-48
Mar. 2 Epiphany Last	2	Exodus 24:12-18	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duty—Tracey Tallmadge (343-1301). If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the altar on a particular Sunday, call Tracey or Betty Vail (639-1201.) If you are giving flowers in memory of a loved one, please notify Pete Vail (639-1444) by no later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that he can include an acknowledgement in the Sunday bulletin.

On a very cold, snowy Sunday in February, only the minister and one farmer arrived at the village church. The minister observed, "Well, I don't guess we'll have a service today." To which the farmer replied, "If only one cow shows up a feeding time, I feed it."

The reverend got up and strode to the pulpit with a bandage on his chin. "I'm sorry about the bandage, but I cut my chin shaving thinking about my sermon. A voice from the congregation called out, "Next time, why not think about your chin and cut the sermon?"

Vestry Highlights—01/19/14

-Outreach: Tabled a decision on outreach until the February meeting.

-St. Ann's needs a vacuum cleaner. Betty authorized to look for and purchase one

-Preliminary Lenten schedule distributed.

-Financial Report. The year-end 2013 financial report shows our cash flow for the past year to be positive. Voted to commit to the recommended support to the Diocese of Central New York.

Lent 2014

March 4th—Shrove Tuesday—6 pm Pancake Dinner for 3 parishes followed by imposition of ashes at 7 pm at Zion, Greene

March 5th—Ash Wednesday. 5:00 p.m. 3-parish pancake dinner at Zion Church, Greene with the imposition of ashes following the meal at 7:00 p.m. (Note: No Ash Wednesday service at St. Ann's.) Lenten supper/study will be at St. Ann's, Afton.

Afton Lenten Soup/Sandwich Wed. at 6:00 pm:

March 12—St. Ann's provides soup/entree

March 19—Zion, Greene “ “ “

March 26—St. Paul's, “ “ “

April 2—Zion, Greene “ “ “

April 9—St. Ann's “ “ “

April 13—Palm Sunday—St. Ann's—**9:00 a.m.**

April 17—Maundy Thurs.—St. Ann's—Eucharist-7 p.m.

April 18—Good Friday—St. Ann's—7 p.m.

April 19—Easter Vigil—Saturday—Zion, Greene—7 p.m.

April 20—Easter Sunday—Afton Sunrise Service at Afton Presbyterian Church—6:00 a.m.

Kudos



THANKS! to Tom Vail and his crew for getting St. Ann's crèche back into storage for another year.

THANKS! to those who “un-greened” the church after the Christmas season celebration.

THANKS! to all who support St. Ann's coffee hour. Fellowship is a vital part of our Christian service. And it cannot be said too often: **THANKS!** to all who greet, acolyte, EM, read, teach Church School and give children sermons. Your service gives St. Ann's the life and vitality that visitors notice.

A Prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord, please give me . . .
 A few friends who understand me
 and yet remain my friends
 A work to do which has real value,
 without which the world
 would feel the poorer . . .
 A mind unafraid to travel,
 even though the trail be not blazed
 An understanding heart . . .
 A sense of humor.
 Time for quiet, silent meditation.
 A feeling of the presence of God.
 And the patience to wait
 for the coming of these things,
 with the wisdom to know them
 when they come.

—W. R. HUNT

Afton Interchurch Council

-Food baskets: Sent out 77 baskets for Thanksgiving and 80 for Christmas.

-Thanksgiving community dinner: Anne Briggs coordinated and Mike DeBetta led in the kitchen. Fed about 100 in house and an additional 14 take-outs.

-Angel Tree: Betty Mayerhauser and Anne Briggs purchased gifts for 6 children.

-Food Pantry: The new coordinator, Kathy Knudsen, is a retired food service director who worked in the Bainbridge/Guilford school system. She is currently “learning the ropes.”

-The Easter Sunrise Service was scheduled for St. Agnes RC Church but had to be changed to Afton Presbyterian Church due to a conflict in scheduling.

-The Feinstein Food Pantry Challenge is scheduled for March 1st to April 30th this year.

-Approved donating \$200 to Afton United Methodist Church to help with electricity and heating costs.

-Coming Events: Afton Presbyterian Church 38th Annual Soup Supper—Feb. 1st from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
 Hope Church Bar-B-Q on April 5th from 9:30 a.m. until gone.

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 for whom we have been asked to pray. The clergy of the Chenango District have been included. Please remember these people in your personal prayers. Send or give any changes to Tom Vail, 639-1201.

Kaitlin	Joyce	Mya	Sally	Mike
Carol	Fay	Holly	Clifford	Jill
Peter	Edna	Cindy	Bishop "Skip" Adams	
Michele	Jen	Lou	Fr. Chuck Taylor	
Sally	Albert	Gloria	Fr. David Hanselman	
Mary	Pat	Toni	Fr. Bruce MacDuffie	
St. Peter's Church in their search for a rector			Pope Francis	

The following prayer is suggested by Bishop Skip. It is from the Evening Prayer and Compline services 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 suf-

How's Your Balance?

How familiar are you with St. Ann's Mission Statement? It can be found on the first and last pages of this newsletter and it always appears in our Sunday bulletin. It is: ***"Sharing God's love in our community through prayer, study and action."*** It was developed several years ago by the Vestry at that time. So, how are we doing?

Prayer: (What are we doing to get closer to God and gain insight in what it means to be a Christian?) Most of us do a pretty good job of praying, via our corporate worship (Eucharist and Morning Prayer) and, hopefully, in our personal prayer lives. Of course, we can always do better, keeping in mind that praying involves not only talking to God but also listening for what He may be telling us.

Study: (What are we doing to better understand the word of God?) My guess is that most of us don't do such a good job in this area. This would include Bible reading, Bible study (there is a difference!), reading Christian literature (check out St. Ann's library) and even listening to Christian music and radio (tune into 88.5 FM or 90.7 FM to hear some good Christian programming.) Lent begins next month with Ash Wednesday (March 5th) and starting March 12th and on successive Wednesdays we will have Lenten Study led by Father David. On those Wednesdays we will begin with a simple supper. This would be a great time to improve the Study aspect of your spiritual journey.

Action: (What are you doing to share God's love with others?) Here's where the rubber meets the road; here's where we put our money where our mouth is. Simply going to church, praying and learning about God does nothing to spread His Kingdom. We are commanded to share it with others. Suggestion: talk to an un-churched friend or acquaintance. You need say nothing more than what your faith means to you and then simply invite them to join you at St. Ann's for Sunday worship. As the Nike ad states, "JUST DO IT!"

The Christian Life has been compared to a three-legged stool where the three legs (corresponding to Prayer, Study and Action) support the Christian Life. Unless all three legs are approximately equal, the stool will not stand properly. The coming season of Lent is a perfect time to work on improving the balance in your spiritual journey.

The Church's Wonderful Book

The importance of the Prayer Book

The Anglican Communion throughout the world has a great asset: The Book of Common Prayer. This wonderful book does two centrally important things: in its various national translations, it directs the worship of the national member churches, and it makes the doctrines of the Church clear. We call it simply, "The Prayer Book." It contains prayers and worship which we share "in common" with each other, as distinguished from private prayer, hence the term, "The Book of Common Prayer."

How did we get the Prayer Book?

Three very important events took place in the early part of the Sixteenth Century: the invention of the moveable type printing press by Gutenberg, the Western revolt against papal (the Pope's) corruption, and the detachment of the Church in England from papal authority. The printing press made it possible for ordinary Christians to possess their own copy of the Bible. In England the removal of papal authority and the detachment of the Church in England from the Roman Church made possible the simplification and reorganization of the worship of the Church. The services were translated into English and published for individual members of the Church to own. The first Book of Common Prayer was published in England in 1549. Archbishop Thomas Cranmer was largely responsible for assembling the best rites for the Eucharist and other services, editing them, and translating them into beautiful English. From that day to this, the Book of Common Prayer has been regarded as a masterpiece, both of literature and theology, because the language is so beautiful and the doctrine is so clear and easy to understand. The Prayer Book has been revised many times since it was first published, but the basic doctrine of the Church has always been preserved. People who say that we lack doctrinal clarity are ignorant of the Prayer Book's content. Therefore, it is VERY important for Anglicans, wherever they may be found around the world, to learn thoroughly the contents of this superb liturgical and theological book. Read all of the Prayer Book, a bit at a time, until it becomes an old friend to you.

Speaking of Action, a meditation in **Forward Day By Day** has the following advice.

-We are not called to be perfect; we are not called to be better than all the rest. God asks only that we give the best we can at every moment.

-We don't have to do all the work. We don't need to know all the answers. We just have to take people to Jesus and get out of the way.

Dangers to the Church

In the book of Matthew, Jesus saw that two dangers would threaten the Church, in the days to come.

-There would be the danger of *false leaders*. False leaders are people who seek to propagate their own version of the truth rather than the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, and those who try to attach others to themselves rather than to Jesus Christ. The inevitable result is that false leaders spread division instead of building up unity. The test of any leader is likeness to Christ.

-The second danger is that of *discouragement*. There are those whose love will grow cold because of the increasing lawlessness of the world. True Christians are men and women who hold to their beliefs, when belief is at its most difficult; and who, in the most discouraging circumstances, refuse to believe that God's arm is shortened or his power grown less.

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



“But I say to you, love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. If you do this, you will be true children of your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:44-45a

Three Gospel readings for Year A Propers in February are taken from Matthew, Chapters 5 and 6. If you check out these chapters (and Chapter 7,) you will find that they consist entirely (except for two sentences at the beginning and two at the end) of Jesus speaking to his followers. In fact Jesus was doing more than just speaking to his followers, he was teaching them. These 3 chapters might well be called a User's Manual for Life! The verses quoted above are a very small example. Jesus also teaches about the Law, anger, sexual sin, making promises, giving, prayer, worship, the value of money versus God, worry, judging

others, asking God for what you need, the “Golden Rule,” entering heaven, being known by our actions and, finally, the difference between people who obey Jesus' words and those who don't. This would be an excellent portion of Scripture to bookmark and read regularly. It might well be something we could take on as part of our Lenten discipline. Let's give it a try. It might just change our lives... both individually and as a parish family!

PCV

A Christian is...

- A mind through which Christ thinks
- A heart through which Christ loves
- A voice through which Christ speaks
- A hand through which Christ works