

# The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY

Member of the Chenango District

January 2014

Clergy: The Reverend  
David A. Hanselman  
761-4601 © 656-9502 (o)

## Fr. Ralph's Musings

**Wardens:**

- Betty Vail  
639-1201
- Tracey Tallmadge  
343-1301

In an emergency, please  
contact one of the wardens



### Make a Note

-Jan 15th—St. Ann's Closet will be open to the public from 9 a.m. until noon. Please help if you can.

-Jan 15th—a free soup and bread meal will be provided by Denise Becker and Amy Wieber from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

-Jan. 19th—Vestry will meet in the parish hall after coffee hour and fellowship.

Well, Christmas is over. To the secular world this may be a truism. In fact, for the fourteen years we celebrated Christmas in Wellsville, there was a family that had their tree at the curb by 9:00 a.m. on December 26. This was not a mistake, it was an annual event. I can only surmise that to them Christmas ended with the receiving of gifts and the frenzied shredding of wrapping paper.

For people of faith, Christmas is **NOT** over. Christmas Day is only the beginning of the remembrance of Jesus' birth. Christmas is a twelve day season which begins in the stable, which recalls his Jewish naming ceremony and circumcision on the eighth day, and culminates with the coming of the Three Wise Men on the feast of the Epiphany. This is part of our Anglican heritage and is reflected in song by the English carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," (although I have never been personally been turned on by a partridge in a pear tree).

In parts of Europe and in the Orthodox churches, Epiphany is more important than Christmas and is the day set aside for the giving of gifts in remembrance of Magi's offerings to the infant Jesus of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These were not random gifts. Each had great meaning. Gold was a gift for a king. Frankincense was for a priest. Myrrh was used to prepare a body for burial, a grim omen of Jesus' coming sacrifice for our salvation. And our response to Jesus' gift to us must be a continual return of that love he showed on the cross. Then Christmas goes beyond twelve days. It becomes a year-round thanksgiving to a God that loves us so much that he died for our salvation.

Think about it. Above all, try it; you'll like it.

Ralph +

## Service Schedule

Date	OT Reader	Epistle	CS	EM	Acolytes
HC Jan. 5	J. Rettberg	T. Vail	TV	J. Rettberg	B. Vail/J. Proffitt
MP Jan 12	R. Felldin	D. Becker	AC	-----	A. Cimini
HC Jan 19	D. Becker	T. Tallmadge	JP	D. Becker	B. Vail/D. Becker
MP Jan 26	S. Proffitt	D. Becker	RF	-----	J. Proffitt
HC Feb 2	C. Cimini	A. Cimini	BV	C. Cimini	A. Cimini/B. Vail

Holy Eucharist conducted on January 5 & 19 & Feb. 2

Morning Prayer conducted on January 12 & 26

**MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO READ, EM and ACOLYTE. YOUR SERVICE TO ST. ANN'S IS APPRECIATED.**

### Church School Teachers for January:

Jan. 5 – Melrose Kelly  
 Jan. 12 – Kerri Vail  
 Jan 19 – Robin Felldin  
 Jan 26 – Sandy Proffitt  
 Feb 2 – Melrose Kelly

### Morning Prayer Officiants:

Jan. 12 – Carol & Mado Cimini  
 Jan 26 – Jody Proffitt & Betty Vail

**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)**

Date	Psalm	OT Reading	Epistle	Gospel
Jan. 5 Christmas 2	84	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	Matt. 2:13-15, 19-23
Jan. 12 1 Epiphany	29	Isaiah 42:1-9	Acts 10:34-43	Matt. 3:13-17
Jan. 19 2 Epiphany	40:1-12	Isaiah 49:1-7	1 Corinthians 1: 1-9	John 1: 29-42
Jan. 26 3 Epiphany	27:1, 5-13	Isaiah 9: 1-4	1 Corinthians 1: 10-18	Matt. 4: 12-23
Feb. 4 4 Epiphany	15	Micah 6:1-8	1 Corinthians 1: 18-31	Matt. 5: 1-12

### **Altar Guild**

**Altar Guild Duty**—Carol Cimini (693-2901) and Melrose Kelly (639-1090.) If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the altar on a particular Sunday, call Carol or Melrose. If you are giving flowers in memory of a loved one, sign up on the bulletin board in the parish hall and please notify Pete Vail (639-1444) by no later than the Wednesday before the designated Sunday so that he can include a notice in the Sunday bulletin.

### **In Memoriam**

The flowers that graced St. Ann's on Christmas Eve were given in loving memory of loved ones as listed on Page 3.



## Vestry Highlights—12/19/10

1. Outreach: This month's outreach will go to the Afton Community Chest and an additional \$100 given to Episcopal Relief & Development to purchase a pig plus training in raising and selling pigs, thus helping a family break the cycle of poverty.
2. Received and accepted with regrets a letter of resignation from Stephanie Proffitt because she has moved out of the area. Amy Wieber has agreed to finish Stephanie's term.
3. Looking ahead to Lent: The Wed. Bible Study will be put on hold during Lent. Fr. David will lead a Lenten Study using The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis.
4. The Christmas Offering will be given to The General Theological Seminary along with an additional \$100 per Vestry's direction.
5. Treasurer reported that St. Ann's is "in the black" and running close to budget as we approach the end of 2013. Thanks to everyone for keeping current with their giving to St. Ann's!

### Snowbirds

Pat and Al Tucker have headed south. Their address is: P. O Box 1225, Bushnell, FL 33513.

## Kudos

Christmas is the season that celebrates the concept of giving, as we contemplate God's gift to us. The family of St. Ann's gave of themselves in many ways without the expectation of anything in return. Still we wish to thank everyone for what was done this past month. **Thanks!** to all who gave gifts to our Christmas family. **Thanks!** to all who purchased Christmas flowers and to those who decorated the church for Christmas. It was beautiful! **Thanks!** to the men who put up (and will take down) the manger scene. **Thanks!** to our young people for a great job decorating the tree in the parish hall. **Thanks!** to Ron Sherman for keeping St. Ann's parking lot plowed and sanded. And **THANKS!** to all who read lessons, Acolyte, administer the chalice, teach Sunday School, do children's sermons, and lead Morning Prayer

### New Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for Year 2014 are located on the table to your right as you enter the parish hall. Please be sure to put your name on the sheet next to the number of the set that you take. If you haven't used envelopes before, give them a try!

## Christmas Flowers 2013

Given by	In Memory of
Grace Affuso . . . . .	Tony
Ken, Connie, Trevor . . . . .	Cliff & Marian Sherman
& Chelsea Beames	Bill Sherman
	Bob Beames
	Blanche Shofkum
	Doris Doolittle
Denise Becker. . . . .	Our Loved Ones
Carol & Mado Cimini . . . . .	Parents, Friends
	& Family
Marion Diehl . . . . .	Our Loved Ones
The Dubiel Family . . . . .	Bill and Ann Anderson
Robin Felldin . . . . .	Robert, Jennie & Scott
	Frederburg
Duane Kane . . . . .	Our Loved Ones
Tom & Melrose Kelly. . . . .	Our Loved Ones

Given by	In Memory of
Jody & Sandy Proffitt . . . . .	Our Loved Ones
Rettberg Family . . . . .	Our Loved Ones
Ron & Cindy Sherman . . . . .	Addison Noone
	Cliff & Marian Sherman
	Blanche Shofkum
	Bill Sherman
	Bill Graham
The Tallmadge Family . . . . .	All Our Loved Ones
Carol Tarvin . . . . .	Clyde Tarvin
Pat & Al Tucker . . . . .	Loved Ones
Pete & Carol Vail . . . . .	Our Loved Ones
Tom & Betty Vail . . . . .	Our Loved Ones
Woodie & Diane . . . . .	Our Loved Ones
St. Ann's Parish . . . . .	For all past parishioners
	who have lovingly cared
	for St. Ann's

### In Recognition of a Job Well Done!

As always happens at the end of the year, people leave the Vestry and new people come on. This year Proffitt, having the area, has Vestry position. has agreed to Stephanie moved out of resigned her Amy Wieber fill Stephanie's unexpired term. Betty Vail will fill a Warden's position and Judy Rettberg will serve out the remainder of Betty's term. Thanks, Stephanie, Betty and Judy for your service and dedication. The gift of your time and talent is very much appreciated.



### Coffee Hour Signups

St. Ann's Coffee Hour is a time for fellowship, catching up on events in the St. Ann's "family" and also a time to simply enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and some goodies. Hosting a coffee hour is not difficult. The host does not have to bake or make the "goodies." Purchased doughnuts, coffeeecake, coffee & crackers and veggies are all appropriate and funds are available to purchase them. You can even share the duty with someone. The important thing is to sign up so we know that it's covered..



### St. Ann's Vestry — 2014

The following people will be serving on St. Ann's Vestry:

Tracey Tallmadge	Warden
Betty Vail	Warden
Denise Becker	Vestry Person
Jody Proffitt	Vestry Person
Sandy Proffitt	Vestry Person
Judy Rettberg	Vestry Person
Woodie Robins	Vestry Person
Amy Wieber	Vestry Person
Tom Vail	Clerk
Pete Vail	Treasurer

### Stewardship Report

Thanks to the generous support of St. Ann's parishioners, we have exceeded the pledges of financial support from last year. Thank you to all who support St. Ann's financially and with your time and talents. As our young people would say, "you are awesome."

If you have not returned your card, it is not too late. Please put the card in the envelope that was provided and put it in the offering plate or mail to St. Ann's Church, P. O. Box 22, Afton, N. Y. 13730.

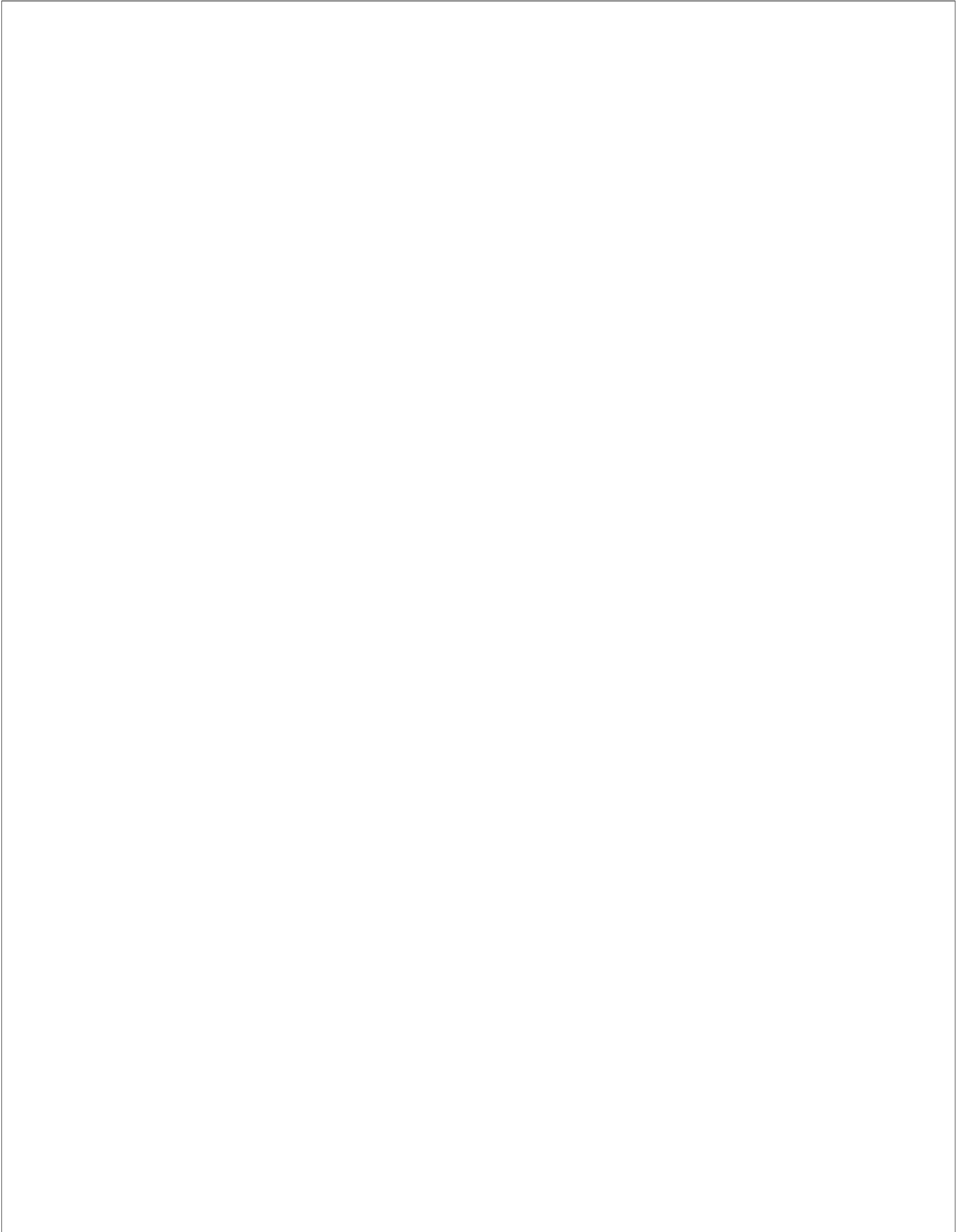
### In Need of Prayer

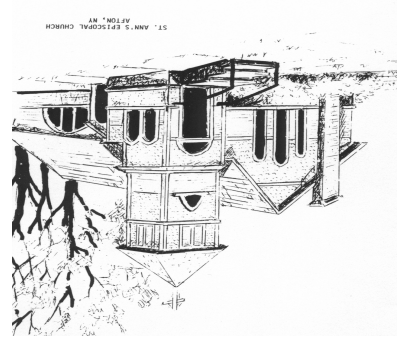
It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. A current listing follows. The names listed are not necessarily members of the parish and may include individuals for whom we have been asked to pray. The clergy of the Chenango District have 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	Albert
Michele	Jen	Lou	Fr. Chuck Taylor	
Sally	Kody	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 suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.*





Address label here

Worship Services: Sunday 9:30 am

Clergy: The Rev. Ralph G. Groskoph  
Wardens: Tracey Tallmadge  
Betty Vail

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

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

## The Final Word



**(This is a reprise of a commentary that was written for the Jan. 2006 issue. It seems appropriate to republish it.)**

**Epiphany** - 1. A feast celebrated Jan. 6th, commemorating the coming of the Magi as being the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles..

**manifestation**—an act of being evident to the senses, especially to the sight.

As Christians we believe that God became manifest in the person of Jesus Christ. That is, God became visible to people by taking the form of Jesus Christ, calling himself “the Light of the World.” And in the beginning of his Gospel, John says, “The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.”

Think about light. It can't be seen unless it is reflected off something, be it a particle of dust or an object like the moon.

Furthermore, in the absence of light, we are unable to see and are likely to stumble around, bumping into things and possibly injuring ourselves..

Isn't God much like that? We can see Him only when His love is reflected by others. Likewise, it is only when we live our lives based on God that others will see God in and through us. Without God, we stumble through our lives, running into things and often getting hurt.

With Jesus, the Light of the World, we are able to see, and when we see, we don't get hurt as much!

PCV