

The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, MD

Member of the Chenango District

January 2013

Clergy: The Reverend David A. Hanselman

761-4601 (e)

656-9502 (o)

Wardens:

-Tracey Tallmadge
343-1301

-Judy Rettberg
208-4084

In an emergency, please contact one of the wardens



Make a Note

-Jan. 17th (Thursday)
Christian Caregiving
Formation at St. Paul's,
Oxford at 6 pm.

-Jan. 20th—Vestry will
meet in the parish hall
after fellowship and
snacks.

-Jan. 20th (Sunday) at
Zion Greene the Family/
Youth group will meet
from 2-4 pm.

-Looking ahead... Ash
Wednesday falls on Feb-
ruary 13th in 2013.

From Fr. Dave

Greetings and peace be with you all!

It looks like the world was spared another "end of the world" claim! Actually, with all the excitement about the Mayan calendar, you might remember from last month's epistle that I was more interested in the fact that rather than the "end" of time, the Mayans seemed to think we'd be entering a new age, a new era; something Christians have talked about since the first Easter.

Well, there are a couple very new things that are happening this month in our parishes. **Thursday January 17th, 6 pm at St Paul's, Oxford**, Community Center, our district will begin forming our **Christian Care-giving** groups. Fr Chuck and I are convinced that to ensure the good health of all our parishes, we all must learn to be better Christian care-givers to each other. What exactly does that mean? Well, it's really quite simple - we need to learn how to listen to each other. You can probably imagine, with 3 vestry meetings and 1 wardens meeting each month for the past couple years, there have been moments in which I've seen first hand how folks can utterly fail to actually listen to each other. Thankfully, those moments have been few and far between, but they're still painful when they happen. Moreover, in case you haven't been paying much attention, the fact of the matter is that our whole society seems incapable of listening to each other.

As Christians, however, our fundamental law is to love God and our neighbor. We cannot even begin to love God and neighbor if we don't know how to truly listen to them. Do we really strive to listen to God and neighbor *or* do we wish for them to listen to us? And, for those of you who might have taken counseling classes before and might think you already know how to listen well, I can only say that I too have had a bit of training, but I've come to realize that it's an easy thing to fall out of the habit of doing. Our world today is almost completely against listening to each other. We *have* to begin to change that.

The other exciting and important thing happening this month is the first official **Family/ Youth group** meeting! **January 20th at Zion, Greene from 2-4 pm** families from our 3 parishes will be coming together for some fun activities. We're just beginning to strengthen the bonds between our 3 parishes. Together we can provide our kids with experiences that will strengthen their faith and friendships and basic awareness that there really are other Episcopalian kids!

If for whatever reason you cannot attend or participate in these events, please pray for their success. But, also know that both of these are long-term projects. We're looking to change the fundamental way in which we interact and serve each other and the world around us. "They will know we are Christians" not simply by what we say, but truly by what we do.

Blessings to you all!

Fr. Dave+

Service Schedule

Svc. Date	OT Reader	Epistle	CS	EM	Acolytes
HC Jan 6	C. Cimini	B. Vail	AC	J. Rettberg	B. Vail/J. Proffitt
MP Jan 13	C. Johnson	R. Felldin	PV	---	J. Proffitt
HC Jan 20	D. Becker	J. Proffitt	BV	C. Cimini	A. Cimini/L. Cutmore
MP Jan 27	J. Proffitt	J. Rettberg	JR	---	J. Proffitt
HC Feb. 3	D. Becker	C. Johnson	JP	C. Johnson	D. Becker/B. Vail

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

Church School Teachers for January:

Jan. 6 – Robin Felldin
 Jan. 13 – Sandy Proffitt
 Jan. 20 – Kerri Vail
 Jan. 27 – Melrose Kelly
 Feb. 3— Tom Vail

Morning Prayer Officiants

Jan. 13 – Carol & Mado Cimini
 Jan. 27 – C. Johnson & J. Rettberg

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 C)

Date	Psalm	OT Reading	Epistle	Gospel
Jan. 6 Epiphany	72:1-7	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 13 1 Epiphany	29	Isaiah 43:1-7	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17,21-22
Jan. 20 2 Epiphany	36:5-10	Isaiah 62: 1-5	1 Corinthians 12: 1-11	John 2: 1-11
Jan. 27 3 Epiphany	19	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10	1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a	Luke 4: 14-21
Feb. 3 4 Epiphany	71:1-6	Jeremiah 1:4-10	1 Corinthians 13: 1-13	Luke 4:21-30

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duty—Melrose Kelly (639-1090) and Carol Cimini (693-2907-) If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the altar on a particular Sunday, call Melrose or Carol. 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 departed family members and friends as listed on Page 3.



Snowbirds

Pat and Al Tucker have headed south. Their address is: P. O Box 1225, Bushnell, FL 33513. Nancy and David Setford are also heading south. Their winter address is: 706 Parker Den Drive, Ruskin, Florida 33570. Nancy's cell phone number is: 607-743-1060.

Vestry Highlights 12/9/12

1. Sound system problem appears to be in mixer. Authorized purchase of replacement.
2. Outreach: Christmas Eve collection + \$100 will go to General Theological Seminary. \$100 to Afton Community Chest.

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 (see list below) 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 Dec.

Morning Prayer leaders: D. Becker, J. Rettberg, J. Proffitt, B. Vail & P. Vail.

I love to decorate my home for the holidays. I hang twinkling white lights and fresh garlands around the front door. The Christmas tree, all ten feet of it, is filled with ornaments old and new, and under it is a hand-carved crèche, made for small hands to rearrange the stable animals who await the arrival of Baby Jesus. Crystal, ceramic and wooden angels of all shapes and sizes fill the fireplace mantel.

Then, as quickly as it all began, Christmas is over and the time comes to take down the decorations and look toward the new year.

When all of the boxes are back in the attic, I sit down on the sofa and open up my journal, ready to write down my resolutions. I've thought about my goals and how I'll achieve them; it's all clear and organized in my head. I pause for a moment and look around the living room, which looks bare now that it is free of its holiday trappings. I, too, must get back to the basics. So I begin from my heart and start with a prayer:

Lord, a brand new year is before me. I offer myself to You and ask You to guide me during this year ahead. Work through me, Lord; guide my steps, lead my way and inspire my words so others see You through me. And, Lord, no matter what lies ahead for me this year, I want to pray without ceasing, love my fellow men and honor You with my heart and my soul. Amen.

By Melody Bonnette from online Guideposts Daily Devotions

Christmas Flowers 2012

Given by:

In memory of:

Tony and Grace Affuso	Loved Ones
Ken & Connie Beames	Cliff & Marion Sherman
Trevor & Chelsea	Blanche Shofkom
	Bill Sherman
	Bob Beames
	Doris Doolittle
Denise & Any	Genevieve Wieber
	Sola Hurst
Mado and Carol Cimini	Loved Ones
Marion Diehl & Family	Elmer Diehl Jr. & all other loved ones
Diane Fell and Woodie	Family
Duane Kane	Loved ones
Tom and Melrose Kelly	Sue Donahue
	Howard Sherman
Jody and Sandy Proffitt	Harold Proffitt
	Jacquelin Proffitt
	Charles Gardner

Stephanie Proffitt.	Jacquelin Proffitt
	Charles Gardner
Judy Rettberg	Trudy Baker
	Bill Latus
	Chris Fischer
Nancy Setford	Harland & Virginia DuMond
	James Fisher
Ron and Cindy Sherman	Cliff and Marian Sherman
	Bill Graham
	Blanche Shofkom
	Bill Sherman
	Addison Noone
Carol Tarvin	Clyde Tarvin
Al and Pat Tucker	Loved ones
Dan and Kerri Vail	Our families
	Allyson & Garrett
Pete and Carol Vail.	Connie, Marion & Guy Williams, loved ones
Tom and Betty Vail	Our loved ones

In Recognition of a Job Well Done!

The end of the calendar year almost always finds people leaving Vestry and others coming on board. This is one of those years when that does not happen. Those whose terms are up simply enjoy those whose have graciously agreed to stay on for one more term which is allowed by church statute. See the list of Vestry members below. Each one deserves to be thanked for their conscientious service to St. Ann's. Their attitude towards serving makes Vestry membership enjoyable. Thanks, everyone, 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, coffeecake, cheese & 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



St. Ann's Vestry — 2013

The following people will be serving on St. Ann's Vestry during the year 2013:

Tracey Tallmadge	Warden
Judy Rettberg	Warden
Denise Becker	Vestry Person
Sandy Proffitt	Vestry Person
Stephanie Proffitt	Vestry Person
Woody Robins	Vestry Person
Nancy Setford	Vestry Person
Betty Vail	Vestry Person
Tom Vail	Clerk
Pete Vail	Treasurer

2013 Stewardship Update

14 individuals and families have returned "Intention" cards for over \$25,000 for the coming year of 2013. The number of "intention" cards is slightly less than 2012, but the total dollars is nearly the same. There are also several individuals and families that support St. Ann's generously, but are not included in the "intention" card figures. A most generous response from everyone. As you know, "intention" cards may be changed at any time, but they give your vestry some idea of what to expect in financial support for the coming year. Your Stewardship Committee extends a hearty "thank-you" to all who support St. Ann's financially, and with their time and talents. You are a generous and supportive group of people. May God continue to bless you all. **St. Ann's Stewardship Committee**

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 additions or changes to Tom Vail, 639-1201.

Kaitlin	Sally	Adina & Tony	Fr. Chuck Taylor
Carol	Darin	Pat	Fr. David Hanselman
Peter	Mary	Mya	Fr. Bruce MacDuffie
Jeri	Joyce	Holly	Bishop "Skip" Adams
Michele	Charles	Jim	
Jane	Kody	Michael	

A friend learned this proverb from her grandmother: "God may not come when you call, but He's always on time."

Christmas Without Anglicans?

One of the things I like most about the Christmas season is the music. It only occurred to me recently that so many of the Christmas carols came to us from Anglicans. Even our popular image of jolly old St. Nick was shaped by a professor of biblical studies at (of all places) an Episcopal seminary.

“Twas the Night Before Christmas” is a poem published anonymously in 1823 and generally attributed to Clement Clarke Moore, a professor of classics at Columbia and lay Professor of Hebrew and Bible at the General Theological Seminary in New York. (built on land he donated.) The poem, which has been called “arguably the best-known verses ever written by an American,” is largely responsible for the conception of Santa Claus from the mid-nineteenth century to today.

And what about the carols? The text of the popular “O little town of Bethlehem” was written by Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal priest, long-time Rector of Trinity Church in Boston, and later Bishop of Massachusetts. He was inspired by visiting Bethlehem in 1865. At Christmas, 1868, he asked his organist, Lewis Redner, to write music for the poem he had written. Redner’s tune, titled “St. Louis,” is the one most often used.

John Mason Neale, an Anglican priest, scholar, and hymn-writer, translated many ancient hymns, including the Christmas classic, “Of the Father’s love begotten.” He was also responsible for much of the translation of the Advent hymn “O come, O come, Emmanuel,” based on the “Great O Antiphons” for the week preceding Christmas. Neal’s most enduring and widely-known legacy is probably his own original Christmas contributions, most notably “Good Christian men, rejoice” and his Boxing Day carol, “Good King Wenceslas.”

The Anglican priest Charles Wesley penned the classic “Hark! The herald angels sing.” The original words were reworked by his friend and fellow priest George Whitfield into the verses familiar to us today. The “Father of English Hymnody” Isaac Watts, a nonconformist minister in the Church of England, wrote the famous carol “Joy to the world!” Anglican bishop Christopher Wordsworth penned the famous carol, “Sing, O sing, this blessed morn.”

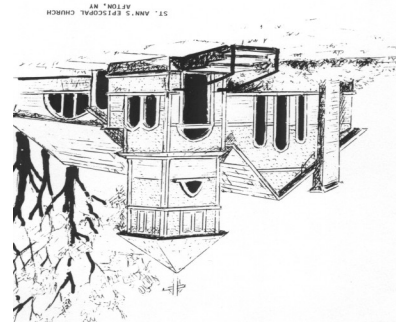
Christina Rossetti was an English poet and a devout Anglo-Catholic. Two of her poems, “In the bleak midwinter” and “Love came down at Christmas,” became popular Christmas carols. Cecil Alexander, wife of a bishop in the Church of England, wrote the hymn “Once in royal David’s city.” Nahum Tate, the son of a priest and England’s poet laureate, wrote the hymn “While shepherds watched their flocks by night.” At the age of twenty-nine, English writer and Anglican layman William Chatterton Dix was struck with a sudden near-fatal illness and confined to bed rest for several months. While his illness resulted in a deep depression, out of his traumatic experience, he wrote the lovely carol, “What Child is this?”

Yes, what would Christmas be like without Anglicans?

The Rev. Timothy Matkin, SSC, Commanche, Texas

Some Reasons Jesus Is Better Than Santa

- Santa lives at the North Pole; Jesus is everywhere. –Santa comes but once a year; Jesus is an ever present help; - Santa comes down your chimney uninvited; Jesus stands at your door and knocks. – Santa makes you stand in line to see him; Jesus is as close as the mention of His name. – Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly; Jesus has a heart full of love.—Santa offers :Ho, ho, ho”; Jesus offers health, help and hope.—Santa says “You better not cry”; Jesus says, “Cast all your cares on me for I care for you.” - Santa puts gifts under your tree; Jesus became our gift and died on the tree for us.



Address label here

Worship Services: Sunday 9:15 am

Judy Rettberg

Wardens: Tracey Tallmadge

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



(This is a reprise of a commentary that was written for the Jan. 2006 issue.)

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.

— from Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary

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