

# The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, ND

Member of the Chenango District

July 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

-Vestry will not meet during the months of July and August.

-July 15th: Summer Work Project starts at 9:00 a.m.

-July 17th: Water Safari. Be at St. Andrew's at 8:00 a.m.

-Aug. 11th: Pig Roast at St. Andrew's, New Berlin

From Fr. Dave

Greetings and blessings to you all!

July - not quite yet the dog days of summer and far past the flush of spring.

Glorious July when so many things are in the fullness of growth!

In other words, I guess, July is the month of "middle age".

Be that as it may, this "middle-ager" will try once again to give blood. Some of you know the story: I tried to give blood as planned on Flag Day, June 14th, but because of fear and/or excitement (let's go with "excitement", shall we?) my pulse rate would not come down below 100 bpm. They allow only 2 readings and mine were 106 and 102.

What followed was, naturally enough, a mixture of emotions - relief (I'm almost ashamed to admit) and shame (at the relief), but also a sense of being defeated. Well, I can tell you, that come hell or high water, I'm going to get some of this blood out of my body and into one of those groovy little pint-sized plastic bags the Red Cross has! That's a battle I'm determined to win. I'm told there will be another blood drive in Oxford in July at the American Legion. As soon as I find out any details, I'll pass it on to the parishes.

Please, everyone, stay safe this summer. While you're having your fun, don't forget to support your parish - come to services when you can. Mail in your pledge offering if you have to. Come on out for the district work day - Epiphany, Sherburne at 9 am on 15 July and Water Safari trip leaving from St Andrew's, New Berlin, Wednesday 17 July at 8 am.

Pray for us. We'll certainly be praying for you!

Blessing upon blessing!

Fr. Dave

### Service Schedule

<u>Svc.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>OT Reader</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
HC	July 7	C. Cimini	A. Cimini	AC	C. Cimini	A. Cimini/J. Proffitt
MP	July 14	D. Becker	B. Wright	PV	-----	B. Vail
HC	July 21	D. Becker	C. Tarvin	JP	D. Becker	B. Vail/A. Vail
MP	July 28	P. Tucker	J. Rettberg	TV	-----	J. Proffitt
HC	Aug 4	B. Wright	R. Felldin	JP	J. Rettberg	J. Proffitt/B.Vail

#### Morning Prayer Leaders:

July 14 - D. Becker & M. Harding

July 28--- R. Felldin & B. 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 C)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
July 7 Pentecost 7	30	2 Kings 5:1-14	Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 14 Pentecost 8	82	Amos 7:7-17	Colossians 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37
July 21 Pentecost 9	52	Amos 8:1-12	Colossians 1:15-28	Luke 10:38-42
July 28 Pentecost 10	85	Hosea 1:2-10	Colossians 2:6-15	Luke 11:1-13
Aug. 4 Pentecost 11	107:1-9,43	Hosea 11:1-11	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21

### Altar Guild

**Altar Guild Duty**—Judy Rettberg (639-4084.) If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the altar on a particular Sunday, call Judy. 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 Thursday before the designated Sunday so that he can include a notice in the Sunday bulletin.

### In Memoriam

We extend our deepest sympathies to Grace Affuso and her family on the death of her husband, Tony. Please keep them in your prayers.

## Kudos



### Vestry Highlights 06/16/2013

1. Vestry did not meet this month because we couldn't field a quorum.

### Notice to All Readers

If you are willing to read the Parish News on St. Ann's website, which is:

**<http://www.stannsaftonny.org>**

instead of receiving it hardcopy via US Mail, please send me an email (pcvail@tds.net) stating that. You will receive a monthly e-mail telling you that it is available. This will save St. Ann's copying costs and postage.

**Thanks!** to May Morning Prayer leaders: Denise Becker & Marissa Harding and Betty Vail & Burke Wright. Many

**Thanks!** to June Church School leaders and those doing the Children's Sermon.

**Thanks!** to all who turned out to help with the Baccalaureate Service. It was very well attended and was a meaningful service. And

**Thanks!** To Ron and Cindy Sherman for their excellent work keeping St. Ann's mowed and trimmed. It looks great!

**Thanks!** to Duane Kane for greeting people in a way that makes them feel very welcome!

### 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	Gloria	Cindy
Carol	Pat	Tony Moran	Cheryl
Peter	Mary	Mya	John
Jeri	Joyce	Holly	Fr. Chuck Taylor
Michele	Charles	Jim	Fr. David Hanselman
Evelyn	Kody	Candon	Fr. Bruce MacDuffie
Ken	Helen	Elinor	Bishop "Skip" Adams
Lou	Chuck	St. Peter's	in their search for a rector

The victims of all natural disasters in the United States.

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.*

God doesn't take a vacation...To use modern terminology He's available to us 24/7 . God has given us 168 hours a week. Doesn't it seem reasonable that we give back to God at least 1 to 2 hours a week for worship, praise and prayer? That amounts to only 1%. Too much going on, you say? That may be, but perhaps what is then called for is an objective examination of our priorities.

Remember, too, that during the summer St. Ann's expenses continue. Therefore please keep your pledge/donations up to date, even if you do not make it to worship on Sundays. It will be much appreciated, especially by your Treasurer!!

We wish each and every one a summer that is relaxing, renewing and rejuvenating

### **St. Ann's Parish Picnic**

St. Ann's Parish Picnic took place on Sunday, June 9th at Kellystone Park. Judy Rettberg led us in Morning Prayer with some inspired singing accompanied by Pete Vail on guitar. A delicious "Potluck Picnic" was then enjoyed by everyone. It was topped off by nearly perfect weather and the beautiful surroundings of Kellystone. Many thanks to Melrose and Tom Kelly for their hospitality!

### **Bon Voyage**

On July 1st, Nancy Setford left us permanently to live in Florida. We thank her for her immeasurable contributions to the family that is St. Ann's and we pray: Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us, especially Nancy, to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. We wish you the best, Nancy!

### **From Nancy Setford**

To My Church Family,

The monthly newsletter is giving me a perfect way and time to reach you all to thank you for giving me an overwhelming and beautiful farewell. Sorry for all the tears [ my emotions always take over ] which continued at home as I read all the cards and kind messages you all wrote. Thank you for the gifts. I have a collection of Willow Tree figurines and Forget-Me-Not is a perfect addition. I will never forget any of you. You have been family for 37 years. I have always enjoyed serving and worshipping with all of you.

Thank you Father David for the very special sermon and prayer for my departure. I have enjoyed working with you and watching you grow in your ministry.

Everyone of you have touched my heart. I love you and will miss you.

Love, Nancy

### **To Keep in Touch with Nancy**

New Address: Nancy Setford  
706 Parker Den Drive  
Ruskin, Florida 33570

Email: [nasetford@stny.rr.com](mailto:nasetford@stny.rr.com) (This may change.)

Cell Phone: 607-743-1060

The Pharisee Gamaliel, speaking about the early apostles, gives wise advice that works in any age. It reverberates in tandem with Martin Luther King's often-quoted line that the "arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." It is based on a conviction that God is somehow at work in the world; that in some deep sense the world is held in being by love, and that love overcomes fear and death. This conviction is not based on wishful thinking but on experience, and it is especially valuable when it appears that the tide is going the other way, as it often seems to be doing in our own day.

(From Forward Day By Day, June 2013)

## Coming Events

**The 3-Parish Bible Study** will meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at St. Ann's in Af-ton. The next scheduled Bible Study is July 10th from 6:00-7:30 PM. Bring a dish to pass, your own table service and drink.

**District Summer Project** - Will be at Epiphany in Sherburne on Mon., **July 15th** starting at 9:00 AM. The Office of Aging has told Fr. Chuck they can provide names of senior citizens that need work done on their homes if there is no work at Epiphany.

**Water Safari** - at Old Forge is scheduled for Weds., **July 17th**. Louise has offered once again to drive the bus for us. Be at St. Andrew's, New Berlin, by **8:00 AM** with the bus pulling out at 8:15 sharp and returning at 5:00 PM. We are asking for **\$5** from **church members** and \$20 from friends that will be attending.

## Can Christianity Survive?

An aggressive and outspoken segment of modern society is doing everything in its power to destroy Christianity. The first wave is to push it out of the public forum, and the next will undoubtedly be a movement to suppress it altogether. The question is often asked today as to whether Christianity (or religion itself) can survive this onslaught. The answer is simple: Yes!! Through history the Church has faced enemies who have sought to destroy it, and all they have ever accomplished is to strengthen it. Times are changing and the days of easy and socially acceptable Christianity may be on their way out, but the Faith will persist. As Bishop Fulton J. Sheen observed many years ago, we are watching the end of Christendom, but not the end of Christianity. Christianity is that Faith deposited once and for all time with the Apostles. It was given to us by God, and it is for all people. As the rabbi Gamaliel observed two thousand years ago, "if it is of God it cannot be stopped, and if it is not, there is no need to fight it because it will die by itself." (Acts 5:33) Christendom, on the other hand, was that long period when the vast majority of Americans and Europeans claimed to be Christian and the Church was a central focus of daily life. Christmas and Easter, despite their secular overtones, were acknowledged to be the celebrations of the birth and resurrection of Christ and public prayer was commonplace and expected.

The era of Christendom is disappearing and it may be just as well. It was too easy to claim to be a Christian. As a result, we tended to take the faith for granted. People went to church on Sunday because it was what one did on a Sunday morning. Everyone expected it of them. The churches were full, but I wonder how many people, even some clergy, really understood what was going on there. There is a difference between going to church and worshipping God. One is a matter of routine, and the other is a conscious spiritual activity. All too often the twain do not meet.

Perhaps now that Christendom is dying we can get on with the business of Christianity. When we consider that the Church's mission is to bring us to everlasting life, we have to realize that this is serious business. The work of the Church is not to sponsor soup kitchens and promote social justice. These are signs of faith, not its purpose. The work of the Church is to save souls. This requires prayer, an understanding of what the Church teaches, and a willingness to put those teachings into practice. To live up to those expectations requires discipline and a conscious attention to one's spiritual life. It takes very little effort to be a part of Christendom, but to be a Christian is hard work. It's good work, though, and the pay is extraordinary!

The Rev. Richard R. Losch, St. James', Livingston, Alabama

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



***Christ is the head of the church, which is his body. He is the first of all who will rise from the dead, so he is first in everything.***  
***Colossians 1:18***

This verse is taken from the Epistle reading for Pentecost 9. The key message of Colossians is that Christ and Christ alone is the head of the church. He is first in everything. As Christians and members of the church, Christ is our head: our spiritual source of life, our guide, counselor, even our spiritual identity.

The Christians at Colosse had begun to debate this truth. They had acknowledged Christ as Savior, but they began to sample other things, as many do today. Drifting away from Christ the head, the Colossians lost their identity with him. They could have easily fit into today's society.

But Christ is not merely an important part of our new life, he is our new life, the reason for all we do. When Christ is truly our head, others rec-

ognize us as Christians.

If you have received Christ, Paul told the Colossians, then walk with him and be rooted in him by knowing his Word and obeying it. This is accomplished by letting God's Word constantly live in you. To become a Christian is to take on a new life in Christ, dropping the old life. If the old sinful way of life dies, then your desire to sin should die too.

Christians are endangered today, not from without as much as from within. Having acknowledged Christ and then given in to materialism, self-centeredness, or a preoccupation with other things, we lose spiritual sensitivity to our head, Jesus Christ. To be truly Christian, we must let the Word of God dwell richly in us, allowing Christ to be most important in our lives. **From the Guideposts TouchPoint Bible.** Ed. Note: A good way to get familiar with God's Word would be to attend Fr. Dave's Bible Study on the 2nd Wed. of the month. See notice on page 5.