

The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY

Member of the Chenango District

May 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

-May 3: Ecumenical Women's May Breakfast at Afton United Methodist Church. 10:00 am.

-May 11th—Spring Work Bee. General indoor and outdoor cleaning beginning at 8:30 am.

-May 12th—St. Ann's Mothers' Day Brunch after worship.

-May 19th—UTO Spring



He is Risen!

From Fr. Dave

Greetings everyone!

Well, first of all, I have to say that I was quite surprised by the response to my sermon on 4th Easter. You remember it, the one about donating blood and what a big chicken I've been. Well, now begins the hard part - coordinating my schedule with at least some of those many folks who've stepped forward to go with me. So, my goal is to come up with a date sometime before my birthday (July 28th) and see how many of us chickens can flock together and donate a pint of life. I'll keep the parishes informed.

But, this month I would also like to get a little "Spring cleanup" accomplished. First and foremost, I want to remind each of you that you can reach me anytime on my cell phone (607) 761-4601. If I don't answer, please, please, please, leave a message. If it's an emergency (late night sort of thing), please call rectory phone (607) 875-4306.

Also, nestled neatly within our Prayer Book, on page 445 in the liturgy for the Thanksgiving for a Child, I am reminded of my duty to remind you all that it's "the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provisions for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills..." Please, if you don't have a will, have one done and please remember your parish. Good stewardship - taking good care of those things important to life and faith - knows no bounds, not even the grave.

And last but not least, this month I'd like to leave you with what I found to be a particularly nice surprise at the end of a particularly nice book. It's not just because I like the NY Mets, but I highly recommend former Mets pitcher R.A. Dickey's book "Wherever I Wind Up" to everyone. It's a wonderful story of hard work, faith and making it through some very, very tough times. He finishes his book by sharing his favorite prayer from an author many of you will recognize - Thomas Merton.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Amen and Alleluia!

Fr. D

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	May 5	D. Becker	C. Johnson	TV	D. Becker	J. Proffitt/B. Vail
MP	May 12	C. Johnson	P. Tucker	BV	----	N. Setford
HC	May 19	C. Tarvin	D. Becker	PV	D. Becker	D. Becker/N. Setford
MP	May 26	J. Rettberg	C. Tarvin	TV	----	B. Vail
HC	June 2	P. Tucker	C. Johnson	CJ	D. Becker	B. Vail/J. Proffitt

Morning Prayer Leaders:

May 12 – T. Tallmadge & R. Felldin
 May 26 - B. Vail & B. Wright

Church School Leaders:

May 5 - T. Vail
 May 12 - B. Vail
 May 19 - M. Harding
 May 26 - No Church School

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>
May 5 Easter 6	67	Acts 16:9—15	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23—29
May 12 Easter 7	97	Acts 16:16—34	Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21	John 17:20-26
May 19 Pentecost	104:25-35,37b	Acts 2:1—21	Romans 8:14—17	John 14:8-17(25-27)
May 26 Pentecost 1	8	Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31	Romans 5:1—5	John 16:12—15
June 2 Pentecost 2	96	1 Kings 18:20-21,(22-29),30-39	Galatians 1:1—12	Luke 7:1—19

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duty—Nancy Setford (639-1828.) If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the altar on a particular Sunday, call Nancy. 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.

St. Ann's Annual Church Picnic

Please mark your calendars. St. Ann's Annual Church Picnic will be held at Kellystone Park on June 9th. An informal worship service will begin at 10 a.m. and the picnic will follow. Please bring your own table service and a dish to share. This is a fun event and great way to usher in the summer season. Please be sure to attend!

Kudos



Vestry Highlights 04/21/2013

1. Outreach: Decided to donate \$200 to the Afton Food Pantry so that it can be used to answer the Feinstein Challenge.
2. Circulated to the Vestry a picture of the cart that we purchased for Georgia Mann. She walks from North Afton to Afton almost every day and uses a cart to carry things. It was observed that her old cart was in poor repair so the Vestry agreed to replace it. She was very pleased.
3. Parish picnic is scheduled for June 9th at Kellystone.
4. The May Greater Afton Area Women's Breakfast is planned for May 3rd at the Afton United Methodist Church starting at 10:00 a.m.
5. Interest expressed in continuing to meet on the last Wed. evening of each month at St. Ann's parish hall to do Bible study. We will kick it off on May 29th and see how it goes. Fr. Dave will moderate.
6. Baccalaureate Service for Afton graduates will be held at St. Ann's on June 20th at 7 pm. Practice at 10 am same day.
7. It was noted that people who sign up for coffee hour need to find their own replacement if they can't make it.
8. Treasurer reported that income is keeping up with expenditures. Details are posted on parish hall bulletin

Thanks! to April Morning Prayer leaders: Denise Becker & Marissa Harding and Daniel & Betty Vail.. Many **Thanks!** to April Church School leaders: Melrose Kelly, Tracey Tallmadge, Kerri Vail, Tom Vail and Betty Vail. **Thanks!** to Judy Rettberg for coordinating and providing coffee cakes for the May Breakfast on behalf of St. Ann's. **Thanks!** to Pete & Tom Vail for setting up the Synthia with service music and making up and copying the service bulletin every week. And **Thanks!** to Ron Sherman for his work sprucing up the front flower garden. It looks great!

Holy Humor Sunday At St. Ann's

Holy Humor Sunday was celebrated a week later this year but that did not dampen the joy experienced by those who were there. Activities culminated in a round of humorous story telling by members of the congregation who were evaluated by a panel of "objective" young people who scored each contestant. First place turned out to be a tie between Robin Felldin and Pete Vail. Thanks to Tom Vail for planning the event and to all who participated in the fun!

Spring Work Bee

A work bee is planned to take place on May 11th beginning between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. The parish hall windows need to be washed inside and out and the garden out front needs weeding. This should not take the whole morning if we have many workers. Two people washing a window would go fast so it is hoped that many people will come out to work. The tables for the Mother's Day breakfast will need to be set once the windows are clean and we have our cleaning materials out of there. If it rains, we will get the windows inside washed.

UTO News

The **United Thank Offering** is a great way to demonstrate our thankfulness for God's daily blessings in our lives. Typically we do this by dropping a few coins in our Blue UTO Box whenever we experience something for which we are thankful. Even a few coins offered in thanksgiving each day can add up to a significant amount over 6 months. And when these individual offerings are gathered together with those from Episcopal churches around the world, great things can be done.

We received word from the Diocesan UTO Coordinator, Nancy Rancier, that, as important as the money is for the good that can be done with it, our primary goal is to increase the prayers of thanksgiving that we send to God. This year the Spring and Fall In-gatherings will be taken on May 19th and All Saints Day (celebrated on Sunday, Nov. 3rd,) respectively. UTO Blue Boxes and envelopes are on the table as you enter the parish hall. If you give by check, be sure to write "UTO" on the memo line. Thanks for supporting the UTO!!

**RECOGNITION OF MOTHERS' DAY —
THINGS THAT WE LEARNED FROM OUR MOTHERS.....**

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE. "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
2. My mother taught me RELIGION. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
3. My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL . "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
4. My mother taught me LOGIC. "Because I said so, that's why."
5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC. "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT. "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
7. My mother taught me IRONY. "Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about."
8. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM . "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck?!"
9. My mother taught me about STAMINA. "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."
10. My mother taught me about WEATHER. "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."
11. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY. "If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"
12. My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE . "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

13. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION. "Stop acting like your father!"
14. My mother taught me about ENVY. "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."
15. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION. "Just wait until we get home."
16. My mother taught me about RECEIVING. "You are going to get it when you get home!"
17. My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE . "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."
18. My mother taught me ESP. "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"
19. My mother taught me HUMOR. "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."
20. My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT. "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."
21. My mother taught me GENETICS. "You're just like your father."
22. My mother taught me about my ROOTS. "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"
23. My mother taught me WISDOM. "When you get to be my age, you'll understand."
24. And my favorite: My mother taught me about JUSTICE. "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you."

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

What is Pentecost and what difference does it make in our lives today?

The Day of Pentecost is the occasion on which pious Jews from all over the new Christian world gathered to celebrate "The Feast of Weeks," probably just months after the crucifixion of Jesus. That Feast was a Jewish festival (all of the first Christians were also Jews) at which first fruits were offered to God. On this day, a miracle occurred: tongues of flame lighted on each person...AND each person spoke their own native tongue but, miraculously, everybody understood everybody else!

The difference it all makes in my life is that on this same day the promised gift of the Holy Spirit was given to the Church (the small Christian faith). I believe that it is that force, the Holy Spirit, that has powered the Church all these two thousand years, kept it going, fed us, strengthened us, supernaturally. Many, in fact, think of Pentecost as the "birth day" of the Church, because it was on that day that we received the gift that has made it all possible.

--The Rev. William A. Kolb

Pentecost is the Church's celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit. It comes from the realization that God's very life, breath and energy lives in, with and among us. Those who are Christians experience this life through Jesus because they see the Spirit so fully manifest in him. If you attend church on Pentecost Sunday, you will most likely hear read a passage from John's Gospel (20:19-23). It tells of a visit of the Risen Christ to the disciples huddled in fear. "Peace be with you," Jesus says. "As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and added, "Receive the Holy Spirit." The breath, the life, of Jesus himself. We are God-breathed. Pentecost celebrates that reality.

The feast day of Pentecost remembers a day not long after Jesus' resurrection when the energy of the Spirit was poured out in power upon the Church. It was a unifying Spirit that crossed the artificial boundaries of language, race and culture. People could speak and be understood; strangers heard one another; communion happened. The Spirit breathes peace.

Here's what seems to happen when people allow this divine Spirit to energize them. Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness and self-control. We call that the "fruits of the Spirit." It's a description of the qualities of Jesus. That's who we are and whom we are to become. The celebration of Pentecost moves very naturally into the following Sunday's celebration of the Holy Trinity, the unique way that Christians describe our experience of God. We see the life of the Trinity as descriptive of the whole of reality: God's pouring out of the divine life in self-emptying love we call the Father.

God's complete and open receiving and responding to that love we call the Son.

The very awareness of that flow of love between one and the other, which values it with infinite worth and bliss we call the Spirit.

Yet all is one complete love. That's a way of thinking of God.

And that same dynamic is present in our lives, breathing us into being. For instance, I experience the Trinity and the Spirit in my relationship with my wife. There is a love that I have and give to her, and a love that she receives and responds to by returning to me. But more than that, after thirty years of marriage, there is something that exists between us, a reality, a Spirit of love that sees our relationship and values it profoundly with humility and joy. Sometimes I pinch myself to be so lucky to live in such love. Love given, received, and valued. Yet it is all one love. That's breathing the Spirit of God.

--The Rev. Lowell Grisham

The above was taken from the following internet web site: www.explorefaith.org/questions/pentecost.html The web site contains several links to other interesting material.

Mothers' Day Brunch

On Mothers' Day, Sunday May 12th we will have an event that has become an annual tradition, the Mother's Day Brunch. After the service the men and boys of St. Ann's, under the watchful eyes of Chef Mike DeBetta, will prepare and serve breakfast to all the ladies. The menu will include: Juice, French toast, sausage, scrambled eggs and applesauce. This is an excellent opportunity to invite friends and acquaintances to join us in a joyful celebration of worship and fellowship. The more, the merrier!! Be sure to sign up so we can plan food.

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



The switch on the flashlight clicks. But instead of a bright beam piercing the darkness, there is only a faint yellow glow. The batteries are weak and low; there is not much power left.

Sometimes our Christian life is like that. We want to shine brightly for the Lord to accomplish great things for him. But instead we let off only a dull flicker. We lack the power and energy. What is wrong? The answer may be simple: we may not be fueling our lives with the power of the Holy Spirit, relying instead on our own energy to fuel our Christian walk. It is not enough.

Jesus told his followers that they would have power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. The book of Acts records the Spirit's coming and what happened when the early disciples allowed his power to fuel their lives and work for the Lord.

The coming of the Holy Spirit was not something the disciples accomplished. They prayed and submitted themselves to the Lord. He did the rest, sending the Holy Spirit to empower them for life and for service.

Acts is often called Acts of the Apostles, but it is more properly described as the Acts of the Holy Spirit

through the Apostles. The first half is the story of Peter's ministry; the second half is the story of Paul's ministry. And scattered throughout are the empowered works of others such as Barnabas, Silas, Stephen and Philip. They were heroic figures because they were plugged in to the ultimate power source: God's Holy Spirit. This book shows us just how brightly we can shine when this happens.

Acts tells the story of the birth of the Christian church. The Gospels tell the story of what Jesus began to do on earth. Acts tells the story of what he continued to do through the Holy Spirit. It is a book about what happens when Christians obediently take the gospel to lost people. It is a book about the power to live a dynamic Christian life, the power to tell others about God's love, and the power to carry us through persecution and trouble.

Whether you lack power in prayer, in your walk with the Lord, in your witnessing, in your service to the church, or simply in your ability to cope with adverse circumstances, Acts is the book to read to discover how to energize your Christian life. It is a powerhouse for believers. *From the Guideposts Touch Point Bible*