

The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, MD

Member of the Chenango District

November 2012

Clergy: The Reverend David A. Hanselman

Office—607-656-9502

Cell—607-761-4601

Wardens:

-Tracey Tallmadge

343-1301

-Judy Rettberg

208-4084

In an emergency please contact one of the above.



Make a Note

-Nov. 4th our Bishop, "Skip" Adams will be visiting St. Ann's.

-Daylight Savings Time ends 11/4/12.

-Nov. 4th is also All Saints Sunday.

-Vestry meets after coffee time on Sunday, Nov. 18th.

-11/22—Afton Community Thanksgiving meal at Afton United Methodist Church starting at noon.

From Fr. David

Greetings to all!

November - as good a month as any for some general "housekeeping"! So, first and foremost, I'd like to remind everyone that I'm always just a cell phone call away. (607) 761-4601. I can't promise I will immediately answer it - especially if it's the middle of the night and the phone is recharging. In that case, the rectory number is (607)875-4306. But, as soon as I get up in the morning, I turn the cell phone back on.

Secondly, recently, I've been reminded of one of my responsibilities as a priest. According to page 445 of the Book of Common Prayer, from time to time I'm supposed to remind all of you that as Christians we have the duty to plan for our eventual death by writing a will and providing for our families (if we have any) and, if able, "to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."

It's probably no surprise, but I've been thinking a bit about stewardship these last several weeks - in all its "time, talent and treasure" glory. To be perfectly honest, when it comes to financial stewardship - i.e. the dreaded pledge, or more appropriately "estimate of giving" - I'm still stuck between two different perspectives.

Frankly, I just can't get comfortable talking about stewardship in terms of meeting our budgetary needs. It's a real and practical problem, to be sure, but it doesn't really sit well. And, it's not because I think it's a matter of "putting the cart before the horse". To my mind, talking about "putting the cart before the horse" sounds like we should first see how much money gets pledged and then determine what operations and missions we can afford. It's not really a matter of doing things backwards - it's a matter of being really quite wrongheaded about the whole thing.

You see, financial stewardship is most clearly a spiritual exercise, a devotion. It's a matter of each individual's relationship with God and the church. To put the matter another way, in one of my darker moments, a day when I was feeling a bit moody, I got to wondering why my family gives 10% of my pay when I'm pretty sure lots of folks don't do that and I know for sure that we could always use that little bit of extra money.

Thankfully, almost as soon as I admitted my dark mood to my conscience, I realized that's not at all the reason why we tithe. It's not about what the rest of the members are doing (or not doing), it's totally and completely a matter of my response to this incredible life - all of it, not just being a pastor. Keeping in mind all the wonderful, incredible, heart breaking as well as heart warming things that have happened in my family's life.

So, this month's take-away message? Please take the time to consider financial stewardship as a spiritual exercise; just like regular prayer and worship. It really is all a part of the same thing - a general stewardship of our lives, our loves, our world.

Blessings to you all!

Fr. David

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	Nov. 4	C. Johnson	T. Tallmadge	PV	N. Setford	B. Vail/T. Tallmadge
MP	Nov 11	S. Proffitt	R. Felldin	TV	-----	S. Proffitt
HC	Nov 18	D. Becker	C. Johnson	BV	D. Becker	J. Proffitt/D. Becker
MP	Nov 25	J. Proffitt	T. Tallmadge	PV	-----	B. Vail/T. Tallmadge
HC	Dec 2	S. Proffitt	P. Tucker	TV	C. Johnson	S. Proffitt/N. Setford

CS- Children's Sermon

MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO READ, EM and ACOLYTE. YOUR SERVICE IS APPRECIATED.

Morning Prayer Leaders:	Church School Leaders:
Nov. 11 - Betty Vail/Dan Vail	Nov. 4 – No Church School
Nov. 25 - Stephanie Proffitt	Nov. 11 - N. Setford
	Nov. 25 - T. 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 (End of Year B/Begin Year C)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Nov. 4	All Saints' Sun. 149	Ecclesiasticus 44:1-10,13-14	Revelation 7:2-4, 9-17	Matthew 5:1-12
Nov. 11	24 Pentecost 127	Ruth 3:1-5;4:13-17	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17—31
Nov. 18	25 Pentecost 16	1 Samuel 1:4-20	Hebrews 10:11-14,(15-18),19-25	Mark 13:1—8
Nov. 25	Pentecost Last 132:1-13,(14-19)	2 Samuel 23:1-7	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37
Dec. 2	Advent 1 25:1-9	Jeremiah 33:14-16	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duty—Carol Cimini (693-2907) and Melrose Kelly (639-1090.) If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the altar on a particular Sunday, call Carol or Melrose or Nancy Setford (639-1828). 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 a notice can be put in the Sunday bulletin.

In Memoriam

The altar flowers on Oct. 28th were given by Mado and Carol Cimini in memory of their loved ones.

Looking Ahead

At the end of November, Nancy will be taking orders for Christmas Poinsettias. Keep this in mind if you would like to order one. Prices will be announced at a later date.



Vestry Highlights—10/21/12 Meeting

1. Outreach: Agreed to send \$100 to Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem School and \$100 to Bishop Skip's Discretionary Fund.
2. The Fish Fry Fund Raiser was successful except that the vendor ran out of food in the middle of the afternoon. We grossed \$204.75 for Glenwood Cemetery.
3. Church copier: Still malfunctions periodically. Woody Robins is looking into a refurbished machine that would satisfy all our requirements. Approx. cost is \$325 plus delivery. The same machine new cost \$5245. Voted to go ahead with purchase.
4. All Saints' service. Will have a sheet in the parish hall to collect names of loved ones to recognize.
5. Sign-up sheet is available for people to list the dish-to-share that they will bring.
6. Stewardship Sunday will be Nov. 18th. .
7. NYSEG has offered to replace existing parish hall lights with more energy efficient models. Total cost would be \$1405. Our share would be \$421. Voted to go ahead with project.
8. Agreed to send \$100 to the Chenango District Youth Group that is being formed.
9. Vestry will begin meetings at 10:45 a.m. as Fr. David will begin attending them.
10. St. Ann's will do an angel tree again this year
11. Treasurer notes: 2013 Budget approved. Expenditures tracking budget well. Income is keeping about even with expenditures. Reports are posted on the bulletin board.

St. Ann's Fall Shower

We're holding a "Fall Shower" to stock up on kitchen, bathroom, cleaning and coffee-hour items. This helps us reduce expenses for these items. Sheets detailing items needed are on the table next to TV cabinet in the parish hall. Please help as you are able!

Snowbirds

Carol Tarvin is now at her winter residence in Florida. Her address is:
Ms. Carol Tarvin
5123 Curran St.

Kudos

THANKS! to Woody Robins for his efforts to find a copier to replace our current machine which is exhibiting signs of its mortality. **THANKS!** to the Girl Scouts for raking and bagging the leaves in the parking area. and to Tom V. for disposing of them. **THANKS!** to all who helped with the brass cleaning: Grace Affuso, Melrose Kelly, Judy Rettberg, Nancy Setford, Betty Vail, Tom Vail and Duane Kane. It was great having some men join in!

On Keeping Warm

Keep in mind that, as colder weather becomes the norm, we will be taking measures to try to reduce our energy consumption, one of which is to lower the thermostats in the church and parish hall. Therefore, please help by wearing warm clothing to church functions.

Bishop "Skip" Adams To Visit

Bishop Adams will visit St. Ann's on Nov. 4. Plans call for a potluck brunch to be held following the worship service. There will be no church school so that all can hear Bishop Skip's sermon and he will be available after the service so that you can share your joys and concerns..

UTO Fall Ingathering

The United Thank Offering is a great way to demonstrate our thankfulness for God's daily blessings in our lives. 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, great things can be done. St. Ann's UTO Fall Ingathering took place on Sunday, October 28th. So far, 11 people have contributed \$142.90. Thanks to all who took part in this very important outreach.

Daylight Saving Time Ends

"Spring forward, Fall back" Remember to set your clocks BACK 1 hour before bed on 11/3.

For Thanksgiving

God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say “thank you?”

I am thankful...

- For sidewalks that need shoveling, a lawn that needs mowing, and windows that need cleaning, because it means I have a home.
- For the mess to clean up after a party, because it means I have been surrounded by friends.
- For the taxes I pay, because it means I am employed.
- For all the complaining I do about the government, because it means we have freedom of speech.
- For the teenager who is complaining about doing chores, because they are at home, not on the streets.
- For the clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means I have enough to eat.

Strange but true: The Pilgrims prepared cranberry sauce at the first Thanksgiving feast to keep the flies off the other foods—not for consumption.

The United States was the first government to set aside a specific day to give thanks. George Washington proclaimed October 3, 1789 as a Day of Thanksgiving for God’s help in gaining American independence. He again proclaimed a Thanksgiving Day in 1795. It was not an annual event, but Thanksgiving Days were proclaimed in 1798, 1799, 1814, and 1815, but none of these were celebrated in the autumn. Several individual states proclaimed Thanksgivings from time to time. In 1863 Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November as a Day of Thanksgiving in an attempt to have both the North and South do something in unity. Most of the Confederacy acknowledged that God is not divided, and observed the day along with the Union states, (making it very clear that they were honoring God, not Lincoln.) From that time on there has been an annual Thanksgiving Day. It was celebrated on the last Thursday of November until 1941, when President Roosevelt signed a bill setting it as the fourth Thursday of November. Several states continued to observe it on the last Thursday until 1956, when the last state, Texas, agreed to follow the fourth Thursday rule.

Curious questions related to the English language:

- “If teachers taught, why didn’t preachers praught?”
- “If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?”
- “How come a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?”

Recent newspaper headlines:

- “Blind Bishop Appointed to See.”
- “20-year Friendship Ends at Altar.”
- “Lawyers Give Poor Free Legal Advice.”

Jesus said unto his disciples, “Whom do men say that I am?”

And his disciples answered unto Him, “Master, they say that Thou art the supreme eschatological manifestation of omnipotent ecclesiastical authority, the absolute, divine, sacerdotal monarch.”

And Jesus said, “What!?”

St. Ann's Prayer List

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 or other requests for which we have been asked to pray. The clergy persons of the Chenango District are included. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. Send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 639-1201.

Kaitlin	Carol	Peter	Mary	Pat
Evelyn	Michele	Jane	Joyce	Bishop "Skip" Adams
Darin	Sally	Kody	Theresa	Fr. David Hanselman
Jerry	Adina & Tony	Clifford	Charles	Fr. Chuck Taylor
Mya	Carol	Jeri	Norma	Fr. Bruce MacDuffie

St. Ann's Treasurer's Report To Annual Meeting

St. Ann's ended 2011 with an overall negative cash flow of about \$1,895 based on all income versus 2011 expenses and outreach. Our 2011 outreach apart from diocesan payments totaled \$2,845.94, about \$445 over what was planned. Pledge income and loose plate offerings were slightly over expected and investment income was slightly below expected. We received Chenango District Mission Grant money totaling \$3,924.37. We appreciate the generosity of all who give to support St. Ann's as we strive to discern and carry out what God would have us do in our community and the world.

Our capital improvements for 2012 were to add insulation to the parish hall ceiling and to ventilate the area above the parish hall ceiling. These improvements cost \$3450 but we should get some payback in fuel oil savings.

To date in 2012, our outreach amounts to \$1,700. Your Vestry considers monthly how much and where best to spend our outreach dollars. This is the first item on the agenda for each Vestry meeting to remind us of its importance. If you have any suggestions, please let one of your wardens or vestry-people know. It seems only fitting that we should share our blessings with others less fortunate. Including our \$3450 capital expenditure explained above, our current year-to-date income is still about \$1670 over our expenditures.

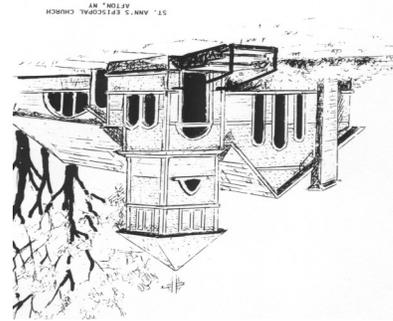
God continues to provide us with blessings. We are blessed to have Fr. David Hanselman serving us on a shared basis with Zion, Greene and St. Paul's, Oxford. Since Fr. Dave cannot serve in three places at the same time, St. Ann's has lay-led Morning Prayer services approximately every other Sunday. As a result our expenditure for clergy support has been reduced. Not having an organist has also reduced our outlay and we appreciate that the congregation tolerates Synthia'sâ foibles.

St. Ann's continues to face increases in costs just as we do in our personal lives. Most of our expenses are "non-discretionary." That is, we cannot reduce them significantly. These are things like insurance, diocesan and personnel expenses and utilities. We're all aware of the continuing significant rise in the cost of energy. We continue to look for opportunities to reduce our energy consumption, the most effective being to simply lower the thermostat. We appreciate everyone's cooperating by adding layers of clothing. At year's end, most budget line items should be near or possibly under the amounts budgeted and I'm hopeful that we'll end the year on a positive note. Detailed financial data can be found on the parish hall bulletin board. See me if you have any questions. Pete Vail

Just as a reminder,

Stewardship Sunday will be November 18th. It is most helpful in planning for a new church year, if your vestry has some idea of the level of financial support for the Parish. This is the reason for the mailing of our "intention" cards, which will be done shortly. Please give your prayerful consideration to your financial support for 2013. As the TV ad used to say, "thank you for your support."

St. Ann's Stewardship Committee



Address label here

Services: Sunday 9:15 am Holy Eucharist on
1st & 3rd Sundays; Morning Prayer on others

Tracey Tallmadge

Wardens: Judy Rettberg

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



And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10: 24-25

The above two verses from the Epistle reading for Nov. 18th seem particularly appropriate for this time of the year as we prepare for Thanksgiving, the UTO Fall Ingathering and, especially, our stewardship. Most of us, I'm sure have heard the expression: walk the walk, not just talk the talk. Another way of expressing it is: Actions speak louder than words. The author of Hebrews is saying the same thing when he asks these Christians to provoke (spur) one another to love and good deeds.

He also cautions against neglecting to meet together. Could we take that to mean we should be faithful in attending church? I think so. It has been said that Christianity is NOT a "Lone

Ranger" religion. We need each other for encouragement and to share each others' joys, concerns and sorrows. The wife of one of my favorite priests shared a thought with me. She said, "A cup of joy, shared, is doubled and a cup of sorrow, shared, is halved." Think about it. You may feel that you don't need to go to church on a particular Sunday but that may be just the day that someone who is at church needs you to be there to share with.

Are we living examples of what it means to be a Christian? In our own town of Afton, some people lack adequate food and clothing. Are we supporting the Afton Food Pantry and St. Ann's Closet? Do we give of our time to help staff them? Do we warmly welcome strangers and newcomers who join us at St. Ann's? Is St. Ann's doing its part to accomplish its mission: **Sharing God's love in our community through prayer, study and action?** Do we reach out in love to those less fortunate than ourselves? These are some things to think about during this Thanksgiving season. May God grant us the grace to grow in and share His love! PCV