

# The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, MD

Member of the Chenango District

October 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

-The three-parish Bible Study group will meet on Wed., Oct.. 9th starting at 6:00 pm. Bring table service, drink and dish to share.

-Vestry will meet on October 20th following fellowship time.

-St. Ann's Annual Meeting will be held on Oct. 6th following fellowship time. Please do your best to attend. It should be reasonably short.

-The multi-parish youth group will meet Sunday, Nov. 10th at St. Ann's Church in Afton starting at 2 pm

Hey everyone!

I'm going to take a bit of a chance this month and touch on a pretty touchy subject - what to do about folks we don't really like very much, but who we can't avoid in our worship services. I won't pretend to have any magic-bullet type answer, but I do have a few thoughts on the matter.

The first thing you might be wondering (maybe in very different words) is, "Why on earth would Fr Dave open a can of worms like this?" Well, this may end up being a major league rookie mistake, but I do have a very personal reason for it. You see, for years I've practiced a sort of self-awareness type exercise in which I try to be aware of thoughts and emotions that crop up at crucial times. Then, I pray and meditate over those thoughts and emotions to try to figure out what God may (or may not!) be trying to tell me.

Well, at the otherwise incredibly awesome clergy conference I went to a few weeks ago, right before the opening ceremony, I realized there was another clergy there who really likes someone who has caused a great deal of trouble for a friend of mine. So, I almost instantly felt a wave of disgust. I figured it was going to be a horrible week to have to spend in such close quarters with someone who loved a person who caused so much pain to a friend of mine. It's a pretty well-known fact that some of the most painful hurts are those inflicted by our fellow Christians.

So, I spent a good deal of my time praying about my reaction. By the end of the conference I was able to have friendly conversations with the clergy, but I was keenly aware of what **not** to talk about. But, my prayers did help me come up with a few reflections:

Otherwise good and respectable people sometimes do things that hurt others. This is especially true when a leader/manager type has to make a difficult decision; or, actually, pretty much any decision at all.

It's easy to just walk away and not interact with that person at all. But, I'm afraid that attitude is a product of the world around us which tells us that people are like so much garbage. In a disposable world, some things are all too easily disposed of - people, friends, pets, even family. We have to find a way to fight the world over this; **especially** when it comes to our Christian brothers and sisters.

Conversely, avoiding a person we have trouble getting along with might be God's way of putting us where we really belong - think of Paul and how he didn't avoid the apostles he conflicted with, but he put most of his efforts in areas where he wouldn't conflict with them so much. He had a pretty clear idea which battles were worth the fight.

If you go looking for a fight, you're very liable to find one, or two, or a couple hundred. Conversely, if you go looking for peace, you're apt to find lots and lots of opportunities, perhaps even more!

Well, I'm sure that's enough for now. Blessings - and God's peace! - to all of you!

David +

## Service Schedule

	<u>Date</u>	<u>OT Reader</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
HC	Oct 6	B. Wright	C. Tarvin	PV	D. Becker	B. Vail/D. Becker
MP	Oct 13	M. Harding	P. Tucker	BV	----	B. Vail
HC	Oct 20	T. Tallmadge	D. Becker	TV	J. Rettberg	D. Becker
MP	Oct 27	B. Vail	J. Rettberg	JP	----	D. Vail/A. Vail
HC	Nov 3	C. Cimini	B. Wright	AC	C. Cimini	A. Cimini/J. Proffitt

<u>Date</u>	<u>Church School Leaders</u>	<u>Morning Prayer Leaders</u>
Oct. 6	- K. Vail	
Oct 13	- R. Felldin	D. Becker/B. Vail
Oct 20	- M. Kelly	
Oct 27	- C. Cimini	B. Vail/B. Wright
Nov. 3	- K. Vail	

## A Morning Prayer Request

“So far today, God I’ve done all right. I haven’t gossiped, haven’t lost my temper, haven’t been selfish, grumpy, nasty or over-indulgent. I’m really glad about that.

“But in a few minutes, God, I’m going to get out of bed, and from then on I’m probably going to need a lot more help.

“Thank you. In Jesus name. Amen”

**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>
Oct. 6 Pentecost 20	Lam. 3:19-26	Laminations 1:1-6	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
Oct. 13 Pentecost 21	66:1-11	Jeremiah 29:1,4-7	2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19
Oct. 20 Pentecost 22	119:97-104	Jeremiah 31:27-34	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8
Oct. 27 Pentecost 23	65	Joel 2:23-32	2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18	Luke 18:9-14
Nov. 3 Pentecost 24	119:137-144	Habakkuk 1:1-4,2:1-4	Thessalonians 1:1-4,11-12	Luke 19:1-10

**Looking Ahead:** A brass cleaning session is planned for Friday, November 15th at 5 p.m. Please help if you can so that the brass will be shining for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

## Altar Guild

**Altar Guild Duty**—Betty Vail (639-1201) and Grace Affuso (639-2961) for October. If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the altar on a particular Sunday, call Grace or Betty. If you are giving flowers in memory of a loved one, 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.



### **Vestry Highlights**

-September 15, 2013

Outreach: After discussion, decided to donate \$700 of budgeted outreach funds to restoration of the Liggett Playground.

- -Annual Meeting set for Oct. 6th. Sandy Proffitt will succeed herself and Betty V. and Judy R. will swap positions.
- -Signup sheets for St. Ann's Closet and the Food Bank are available. People are encouraged to volunteer. It is difficult to get people to participate.
  - -Stewardship Sunday is set for November 10th

### **UTO**

Just a short reminder that the United Thank Offering (UTO) Fall Ingathering will take place on November 3rd. Please support it.

### **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 wish to obtain the newsletter online. You will receive a monthly e-mail telling you that it is available. This will save St. Ann's copying costs and postage.

### **Kudos**

**Thanks!** to Sept. Morning Prayer leaders: Mado Cimini & Tom Vail, Judy Rettberg and Jody Proffitt, Betty Vail & Robin Fell-din, Tracey Tallmadge & Betty Vail. Many **Thanks!** to Sept. Children's Sermon leaders: Jody Proffitt, Pete Vail, Betty Vail, Tom Vail and Mado Cimini. **Thanks!** to all who make St. Ann's Fellowship Time (aka Coffee Hour) a resounding success.

Thanks to Duane Kane for his excellent demonstration of the extraction of honey from the honeycomb. Around 12 (youngsters and young-at-heart) attended and were able to join in the process. Each of the young people left with a pint of honey and a new appreciation for the honey making process. And no one got stung!

### **Offertory Sentences**

"The Lord loveth a cheerful giver... but He also accepts from a grouch."

"Do you give to the Lord's work weekly—or weakly?"

"All people should try to spend their lives doing things that will outlast them."

### **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	Toni	Cindy
Carol	Pat	Tony Moran	Lou
Peter	Mary	Mya	Gloria
Jeri	Joyce	Holly	Fr. Chuck Taylor
Michele	Kody	Fay	Fr. David Hanselman
		Edna	Fr. Bruce MacDuffie
			Bishop "Skip" Adams

St. Peter's Church in their search for a rector

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.*

## Youth Group Doings

We will continue to have our bimonthly youth group gatherings throughout the coming school year. They will be on the **2nd Sunday of the month (except for May) from 2-4 pm.** Here is the schedule for our meetings thus far:

November 10, 2013 – St. Ann's  
 January 12, 2014 – St. Paul's  
 March 9, 2014 – Zion  
 May 4, 2014 – St. Ann's  
 Summer gathering (date and time to be decided) – St. Paul's

Hello Everyone! We hope you are having a wonderful beginning to the school year so far! We wanted to update you on our plans for the November 10<sup>th</sup> Youth Group gathering at St. Ann's (2-4 pm). We thought that since it is near the Christmas season, we could focus on being a blessing to those less fortunate than us. Operation Christmas Child is a project under the direction of an organization called Samaritan's Purse in which shoeboxes are packed with various items and sent to underprivileged children around the world. We thought it might be fun and great for the kids if we had a packing party on November 10<sup>th</sup> and put together shoeboxes to be delivered to needy children. During the youth group gathering we will listen to Christmas music, enjoy eating some Christmas cookies and pack our Operation Christmas Child boxes. Each family can decide if they would like each child to pack a box or if you would like to pack one box as a family. We do ask that everyone please bring empty shoeboxes for their family to pack. We will be asking the churches to donate items for the shoeboxes throughout the month of October and the first week of November.

St. Ann's will be collecting personal hygiene/personal care items, Zion will be collecting toys and St. Paul's will be collecting school supplies for the boxes. Would someone from Zion and St. Paul's be willing to set up a box at your church for donations and let your church members know what we are doing as a Youth Group? We have included a flyer (guidelines for donations) (ed. note: flyers omitted because of mailing constraints.) for Zion and St. Paul's as well. Would someone be willing to copy the flyer for church members as well? We also found out that Samaritan's Purse asks for a \$7 donation per shoe box. If you would be willing to donate that amount for the shoe boxes you fill as a family, it would be appreciated. However, St. Ann's vestry has funds available to assist if needed. Thank you so much for your assistance with this project. We are very excited about our November meeting and hope it is a great success!! Please spread the word to your fellow church members!

Dan and Kerri Vail (St. Ann's)

## **Afton Interchurch Council (AIC)**

The AIC met on 9/29. The **Afton Food Pantry** is being well utilized. As of the end of September, cash received totaled \$6,022.45, including \$280.95 from The Feinstein Foundation and \$660.00 from Catholic Charities. Cash disbursed for food totaled \$3,504.31. Plans for the **Community Thanksgiving meal** are not yet firm. The **Afton area Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service** will be held at the Afton United Methodist Church on Tues., 11/26 at 7 pm. The **Afton Christmas Parade** will take place on Saturday, December 7th, starting at 5:30 pm. **Coming activities: Free Soup & Sandwich Lunch** at Afton Presbyterian Church every other month. (Dates & times to be provided.) **Christmas Bazaar** at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church. 12/7. **Christmas Coffee House** at the Afton Presbyterian Church 12/14. 2014 Activities: Sunrise Easter Service at St. Agnes's RC Church. Baccalaureate at Afton UM Church. Thanksgiving Ecumenical Worship Service at St. Ann's. Next meeting: 01/ 26/2014 starting at 6 pm. Location to be announced.

## **Taking the Long View**

### **By: The Rev. Gordon Graham**

### **Princeton Theological Seminary**

It is common knowledge that the Episcopal Church is losing members at an ever increasing rate. The number of (steadily aging) Episcopalians in church on a Sunday morning across the USA is well below a million, and possibly less than a third of what it was just a few decades ago. Understandably, this is immensely worrying for many people in the church, especially those who are called to lead it. The problem is not confined to Episcopalians, of course. Trinitarian Christianity in general, especially the ‘mainstream’ variety, seems to have fallen out of favor in America. It is not ‘cool’ to be Christian, and in many quarters not intellectually respectable either. The churches that were once generally revered are now quite widely reviled, not just by rebellious youth, but by establishment opinion formers.

I came across a quotation that seems to capture our condition very precisely. “There is a cold indifference for the national religion...It has even become fashionable to decry religion, and ... ridicule is applied to it.” The slightly stilted prose gives a clue, perhaps, to the fact that these sentences were written some time ago. But it may nevertheless be surprising to learn just how long ago. They are the words of George Berkeley, Dean of Derry, written in 1721, not long before he left the British isles for the colony of Rhode Island.

Berkeley, with good reason, was deploring the contemporary state of the Church of England, which was indeed in a parlous condition. In the years that followed, the Church of England in America fell on still harder times. Yet, only a few decades later, this same “national religion” whose decline Berkeley lamented, became known as Anglicanism, and spread across the world. Over the centuries, Anglicans grew in number from considerably less than 7 million then, to about 77 million now. Berkeley was not wrong in his analysis, but what he did not anticipate – though he may well have prayed for it – was the remarkable renewal that the Church underwent, thanks to both Evangelical and Anglo-Catholic revivals.

The appositeness of Berkeley’s words to our own time should alert us to the wisdom of taking the long view. Recently I was fortunate enough to visit the English city of Lincoln whose huge, magnificent Gothic cathedral sits on a steep hill above the town. Begun in 1088, its roof burnt down one hundred and fifty years later. Rebuilt and extended it was then wrecked by an earthquake. Rebuilt once more, its spire collapsed. Further rebuilding restored its beauty until imperfections in construction caused a tower to collapse. Yet more rebuilding followed. Lincoln is a physical metaphor for the history of the church and a testimony to the Christians over hundreds of years who have had faith in the Christian faith.

Those who began to build cathedrals on this scale had no mission strategy, and they felt no need to devise a plan for their survival. The eyes of the faithful were set on the long term, indeed the longest possible term – Eternity. Yet, the work that they began endures in a way that nothing else does. The world has changed in every respect since 1088 – except for the beauty of holiness grounded in faithfulness to an unchanging God, made manifest in Jesus.

There is a lesson to be learned from this, but it is not one that can be readily translated into policies, programs, or institutional reforms. Putting the point in unfashionable language, we need not worry unduly about the pitfalls and vicissitudes that that will forever befall the Church Militant, provided we continue to proclaim the Gospel of the Church Triumphant, whose mind is set on God in Christ.

Little Johnny was bothered with a question that he had to ask his Sunday School teacher. “Miss Davis, are there any animals in heaven?”

“I’m not sure, Johnny,” his teacher responded

“Well, I just wanted to know, ‘cause last Sunday we sang about “Gladly the Cross-Eyed Bear.”

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



**One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God, I'm healed!" He fell face down on the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done.**

**Luke 17: 15-16**

This encounter takes place immediately after Jesus healed the ten lepers who he encountered on his way to Jerusalem. Only one of the ten turned back to thank Jesus. That's 10 percent. Think of it. Ten people with leprosy, a debilitating and incurable disease in those times, are healed and only one in ten turns back to thank the healer.

Thanksgiving is defined as 1) an act of rendering thanks, especially to God and 2) a prayer expressing gratitude, i.e., appreciative of benefits received. It is an interesting human attribute. One of my former priests told of a parishioner who admitted that Thanksgiving was his least favorite

holiday. His explanation was that expressing thanks forced him to admit that he was not able to do it all on his own and he was uncomfortable with that admission.

What about us? Is each of us that one in ten who turned back to give thanks? Or are we the nine in ten who did not? A loving mate works hard all day at the office or at home. Do we bother to give thanks? Think about how often in a day someone does something for us, however small. How often do we say thanks? Now think about how often God helps us in a day. Think about how much God has given us. How often do we say thanks to Him?

It is right to give thanks to God both in our corporate worship and in our personal prayers. This provides the perfect opening to remind everyone that the Fall UTO Ingathering will take place on or about Nov. 3rd. Please do your best to support this very important and effective means of outreach.

As Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:18: "No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." May it be so for us in the family that is St. Ann's

PCV