

# The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY

Member of the Chenango District

September 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 Chenango District multi-parish youth group will meet Sunday, Sept. 8th at Zion Church in Greene starting at 2 pm.

-The three-parish Bible Study group will meet on Wed., Sept. 11th starting at 6:00 pm. Bring table service, drink and dish to share.

-Vestry will meet on September 15th following fellowship time.

-Honey extraction demo by Duane Kane on Sept. 22nd after church

-St. Ann's Annual Meeting will be held on

From Fr. Dave

Hello everyone!

I trust your summer has gone well. I know for some, summer was not such a good time, so please remember to keep all those folks on our sick lists in your prayers.

Some weeks ago, in one of my sermons, I said a few words about one of my favorite Americans - Henry David Thoreau. Since many of you didn't get to hear it, and I preached from notes so there's no written copy, I would like to share what I think are some important insights to help us along on our Christian journey. For the past month or so, I've been quite impressed by a literary biography entitled *Natural Life: Thoreau's Worldly Transcendentalism* and written by David M. Robinson.

While I usually don't care much to read literary analysis (I much prefer just reading the work itself!), Robinson seems to me to offer succinct and accurate analyses of the Thoreau I love. And though Thoreau was an irascible person who wasn't too fond of his community church, I'm convinced he has some important lessons for us.

In the sermon, I read this gem, "In *Walden* [Thoreau] aimed not to deny the absolute claims of work but to reformulate the spirit and awareness in which work is conducted. He hoped to demonstrate that moral self-fashioning required an unremitting spiritual labor, and that the physical labor necessary to sustain our daily lives must also be considered an integral part of this larger pattern of spiritual work."

In that sermon, I also mentioned a hesitation I have about Thoreau - he seems to have been more than a little antagonistic towards any concept of community. Now that I've finished Robinson's book, I have to say that I'm sure that I was wrong. I'm convinced that in a very important way, Thoreau was keenly interested in community - the community of humanity and nature. I'm quite convinced that all his writings seek to bridge the all-too easy gap between human society and the natural world in which we inescapably live. But even more fundamental than that, I now appreciate just how deeply Thoreau came to care for humanity.

Robinson provides the insight into just how pivotal the event which initiated Thoreau's essay "Slavery in Massachusetts" was for Thoreau. After a Massachusetts judge ordered the return of an escaped slave, it was with the gravest sense of betrayal and loss of naiveté and innocence that Thoreau wrote, "I had never respected the Government near to which I had lived, but I had foolishly thought that I might manage to live here, minding my private affairs, and forget it." Robinson writes, "Even though [Thoreau] is not directly prevented from choosing and undertaking his own tasks, he finds their value undermined because they are woven into a national fabric that also includes the protection of legalized slavery."

Food for thought and prayer - not just the words, but the man himself. May God bless you all!

Fr. Dave

## Service Schedule

	<u>Date</u>	<u>OT Reader</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
HC	Sept. 1	C. Cimini	J. Rettberg	AC	C. Cimini	A. Cimini/B. Vail
MP	Sept. 8	T. Tallmadge	R. Felldin	JP	----	J. Proffitt
MP	Sept. 15	J. Proffitt	C. Tarvin	BV	----	J. Proffitt
MP	Sept. 22	R. Felldin	B. Wright	TV	----	J. Proffitt
MP	Sept. 29	C. Cimini	J. Rettberg	AC	----	A. Cimini
HC	Oct. 6	B. Wright	C. Tarvin	PV	----	B. Vail/Jody Proffitt

### Morning Prayer Leaders:

Sept. 8 - Carol & Mado Cimini  
 Sept. 15 - J. Rettberg/J. Proffitt  
 Sept. 22 - B. Vail/R. Felldin  
 Sept. 29 - T. Tallmadge/B. Vail  
 Oct. 6

### Church School Leaders:

- B. Vail  
 - Sandy Proffitt  
 -T. Vail  
 - M. Harding/D. Becker  
 - K. 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>
Sept. 1 Pentecost 15	81:1, 10-16	Jeremiah 2:4-13	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14
Sept. 8 Pentecost 16	139:1-5,13-17	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
Sept. 15 Pentecost 17	14	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
Sept. 22 Pentecost 18	79:1-2, 8-18	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
Sept. 29 Pentecost 19	91:1-6, 14-16	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31
Oct. 6 Pentecost 20	Lam. 3:19-26	Laminations 1:1-6	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10

Fr. David will be attending a Credo conference from Monday, Sept. 9th until Monday, Sept. 16th as part of his Professional Development. Therefore he will not be at St. Ann's on Sunday, Sept. 15th.

## Altar Guild

**Altar Guild Duty**—Pat Tucker (639-1984) for September. If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the altar on a particular Sunday, call Betty Vail (639-1201.) 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**

Vestry did not meet in July or August.

**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 August Morning Prayer leaders: Tom & Daniel Vail, Judy Rettberg and Betty Vail & Burke Wright. Many **Thanks!** to July 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.

**STAR**

If anyone needs help updating their "STAR" tax exemption forms, let a warden know. We have someone who can give them a hand.

**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	Judy	Fr. Bruce MacDuffie
Ken	Helen	Fay	Bishop "Skip" Adams
Lou	Chuck	St. Peter's	in their search for a rector
Ralph			

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.*

**St. Ann's Prayer List**

Notice that St. Ann's Prayer List has over 30 names for whom prayers have been requested. We recognize that changes occur as prayers are answered. Please, if you are aware of changes, additions or deletions to the above list, notify Tom Vail at 639-1201.

We are currently updating our Parish Brochure and are looking for someone who has experience using the Microsoft "Publisher" software to provide some help in setting up the revision to our existing brochure. If you are familiar with "Publisher" please contact Tom Vail.

**“I don’t come to church because I have doubts about the beliefs,” some say.**  
**Borrowed from Fr. Bruce MacDuffie**

Many people absent themselves from participation in our Sunday worship and other aspects of our church community life because they feel they cannot agree with the beliefs they think we require and expect. I do not blame them for absenting themselves. When I actually have an opportunity to talk with these good folks, I find that I agree with their objections. Somehow, the idea got out there that we all have to subscribe to exactly the same set of beliefs expressed in the same sets of words in order to be a valid part of the church community. Now that can never happen anyway, because we all have varying ideas about God, varying experiences of the sacred, and often we find ourselves not even knowing if there is a God and also not knowing if we would like the God we so often associate with Church, or whether, for our own psychological health, that picture of God is best locked up in a closet not to see the light of day.

Contrary to that picture, what we are really about, in our church family, is building a supportive community where we learn to value each other in all our different-ness from each other. It is in our experiencing the valuing and love that we come to gain a sense of the meaning of life, in fact, that it actually has meaning. That’s one of the reasons why we gather to worship on a regular basis, like Sundays. That gathering strengthens our willingness to love each other. A spirit flows among us and helps us appreciate each other, whatever our age or talents or what we call our “beliefs.”

Doubts have little or nothing to do with our willingness to gather with our church community to learn to build a community of love. After all, “beliefs” are a head thing, not to do with the heart and being, and our minds and heads are limited anyway in what they can know. So what we do when we come together is to say in our hearts to each other, “I want to learn how best to love you, even if you are very different or not even related to me. That’s why I’m here. And because I want to share life and support with you, I’m joining you in singing songs and hymns I may not even like, but which generally express what I hope is God’s love for all creatures, you and me included. That’s why I share the symbolic meal called “Eucharist” with you. That’s why I share some prayers with you, not because every word agrees with my head’s definitions, but because they are rather like a search light looking for God.”

Oddly enough, when we do this gathering and surrendering ourselves to the gathering over a longish period of time, we actually become more living, and there are moments when we sense, however much we might doubt it, that God is working within us to create love.

If you are reading this and are not part of us, please come visit our beautiful church. We welcome all to share the table at our Sunday Eucharist, Eucharist being a symbolic sacramental meal we share freely with all who come, with no fences to keep away those who differ from us in beliefs or heritage. Come visit our Sunday worship, typically at 9:15 a.m. alternating between Holy Communion (Eucharist) and Morning Prayer. (The Daily Office)

## 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:

September 8, 2013 – Zion

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

Ideas and plans for a fall outing will be discussed at the September meeting.

## Coming Events

**The Youth Group** will meet on Sept. 8th at Zion Church in Greene starting at 2:00 pm.

**The 3-Parish Religious Study Group** will meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at St. Ann's in Afton. The next scheduled Bible Study is September 11th from 6:00-7:30 PM. Bring a dish to pass, your own table service and drink.

**Honey extraction demo.** Ever wonder how honey gets from the honeycomb to the glass or plastic containers that you buy at the supermarket? Duane Kane will demonstrate honey extraction at his home following worship and fellowship on Sept. 22nd. All are welcome, especially young people.

**St. Ann's Annual Meeting** will take place Oct. 6th in the parish hall following fellowship time.

## Continued from Last Month

This is a continuation of an article started in last month's newsletter  
A Child's Book Report on the Old & New Testaments

Moses led the Israel Lights (Israelites) out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent 10 plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti.

Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include don't lie, cheat, smoke, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yes, I just thought of one more, Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua, who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town. After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then was barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because my mom is always saying to me, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn?" It would be nice to say "yes.")

Jesus had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyway, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum.

His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

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



***I myself have gained much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because your kindness has so often refreshed the hearts of God's people.***

### ***Philemon 7***

This verse is taken from the Epistle reading for Pentecost 16. You have been hurt by another person—financially, spiritually, personally, or one of many other ways. The wounds you bear run deep. The heartbeat of Paul's wonderful letter to Philemon is simply this: Please forgive the person who has wronged you. The one who had wronged Philemon was one of his slaves Onesimus. Paul challenges Philemon to forgive Onesimus so completely that he will no longer look at him as a slave but as an equal brother in Christ. This kind of forgiveness was unheard of in the Roman society of that day. But in Christ, it was a new standard, a new expectation.

Forgiveness is often a wonderful chain reaction. Christ forgave Paul and made him a new person.

When Paul shared the gospel with Philemon, he accepted Christ, and Christ forgave Philemon. The same happened to Onesimus. Paul forgave Onesimus's foolish behavior and accepted him as a brother. Now Onesimus and Philemon, both forgiven by Christ and by Paul, must forgive one another.

Forgiveness is the very core of Christianity. As Christ has forgiven you of all your sins, so also he expects you to forgive others of their sins against you, and he expects others to forgive you of your sins against them. We must forgive completely, refusing to hold a grudge against anyone. The offense is wiped from our mind, forgiven forever, and we free ourselves and the offender to begin the relationship afresh. This reestablishment of a relationship is known as reconciliation. Paul knew that, in Christ, his friend, Philemon, could see the slave, Onesimus, in a new way—as a fellow believer and member of Christ's body. When Jesus transforms us, we have no excuse for allowing old differences and arguments to continue. May it be so with us!

From The Touchpoint Bible