

The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY

<http://www.stannsafortny.org>

Member of the Chenango District

November 2015

Clergy The Reverend

Fr. David A. Hanselman

761-4601 cell

656-9502 office

Wardens:

-Betty Vail

639-1201

-Tracey Tallmadge

343-1301

In an emergency and Fr. David can't be reached, please contact one of the wardens.

From Fr. Dave 

Stewardship.

I, for one (though I really hope I'm not the only one!), am quite glad that we traditionally have a "season" of stewardship. It's not because I dislike stewardship. In fact, I love stewardship. The problem is that throughout the year, I fail time and again to point out all the many things we do that contributes to our stewardship of the many gifts God has provided for us. And so, to my mind, it's good that we have a "season" for it so that we can take some time and focus our attention on taking care of the gifts we have.

As part of my role in the Bishop Search Committee, I helped write the profile of our diocese. Specifically, I reviewed some of the history of the formation of our diocese. What I found really got me thinking about stewardship.

While Central New York was still the frontier of our new nation, most of our parishes had their beginning. And, they began as local groups of Episcopalians desiring to worship together. Meeting together, groups of laypeople worshipped from the Prayer Book together. From time to time, as missionary priests became available, a priest would visit these groups of Episcopalians and lead them in the sacramental services (Communion, Baptism, and marriage, typically). When appropriate, priests would also help these nascent congregations form into officially recognized congregations and as meeting places were built (that is, churches), and the bishop became available, the churches were consecrated.

This was all the result of stewardship - taking care of the incredible gift they were given; specifically, the Episcopalian/Anglican approach to being faithful Christians. Regularly worshiping together and finding ways to continue to grow in faith and show our thankfulness for the gifts we have - these are the hallmarks of stewardship.

With so many forces pushing and pulling on us every day, it's good to have a season devoted to honoring all that we do for our faith and an opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to focusing on being the strongest Episcopalian presence in our communities that we can be.

Continue to hold one another in prayer and supporting one another in faith and God's blessings will be with us always. Amen.

If you desire Father David to visit you or give you a call, please contact him at: (607) 761-4601 or (607) 656-9502.



November 22nd
Brass cleaning in
preparation for Ad-
vent.

Service Schedule

	<u>Date</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
HC	Nov 1	C.Cimini	A.Cimini	AC	CC	A.Cimini/B.Vail
MP	Nov 8	P.Tucker	Kris	BV	----	D.Becker
HC	Nov 15	A.Wieber	D.Becker	DV	MH	T.Tallmadge/B.Vail
MP	Nov 22	R.Felldin	Tracey T.	RF	----	T.Tallmadge
MP	Nov 29	A.Wieber	J.Rettberg	AC	----	T.Tallmadge
HC	Dec 6	B.Wright	D.Becker	AC	DB	B.Vail/A.Cimini

Morning Prayer:

Nov. 8 - J. Proffitt/B.Vail

Nov. 22 – R.Felldin/B.Vail

Nov. 29 - D.Becker/M. Harding

Church School:

Nov. 1 - Tom Vail

Nov. 8 - Melrose Kelly

Nov. 15 – Betty Vail

Nov. 22 - Kerri Vail

Nov. 29 - Robin Felldin

Food Pantry:

Nov. 9 - D.Kane/B.Vail

Nov. 11- Holiday – Pantry closed

Special Thanks to all who serve

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 B)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Nov 1	All Saints 24	Isaiah 25:6-9	Revelation 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44
Nov 8	Pent 24 127	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
Nov 15	Pent 25 16	1 Samuel 1:4-20	Hebrews 10:11-14(15-18) 19-25	Mark 13:1-8
Nov 22	Pent 26 132:1-13(14-19)	2 Samuel 23:1-7	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37
Nov 29	Advent 1 25:1-9	Jeremiah 33:14-16	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
Dec 6	2 Advent Canticle 16	Malachi 3:1-4	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duty – Altar Guild Altar Duty for the month of November is Melrose Kelly 639-1090 and Carol Cimini 693-2907. If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the Altar on a particular Sunday, call Betty Vail at 639-1201. If you are giving flowers in memory of a loved one, please notify Pete Vail (607)639-1444 no later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that he can include a notice in the bulletin.

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 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.

Carol Peter Joyce Mya Holly Cindy Lois Sally Clifford Richard Don Pastor Sue
 Andrea Adrianna Diane Judy Dakota Rosemary Tommy Kevin Jan Steve
 Fr. Chuck Taylor Fr. David Hanselman Fr. Bruce MacDuffie Bishop "Skip" Adams Bishop Michael
 Curry Pope Francis Zion Church St. Paul's Church The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal
 Church The vestry of St. Ann's The Bishop Search Committee

The following prayer is suggested by Bishop Skip. It is from the Evening Prayer service 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, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.

United Thank Offering (UTO)

The UTO Fall Ingathering will take place November 1st. The information below includes thoughts taken from a letter by the Diocesan UTO Chairperson.

"As usual I must press upon you to inform your parish that the UTO is NOT a fund raiser. We exist mainly as a mechanism to help people develop a healthy prayer life. A day consists of 24 hours. That is 1,440 minutes. Can you afford to use one of them for a prayer? Try it!"

That having been said, the **United Thank Offering** is a great reminder for us to offer prayers of thanksgiving 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.

Please be sure that your offering is identified as **UTO** by using the UTO envelope, the UTO Blue Box or write "UTO" on the memo line of your check.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Saints Day is November 1st. You will still have time that Sunday morning before the service to add names of loved ones to the list.

November 1st is the United Thank Offering ingathering. Please give this your prayerful consideration as your support benefits those in need both in this country and around the world.

November 8th is the annual Stewardship Sunday. Around the first of November, the Stewardship letter should arrive at your home. Please read your letter and this too, needs your prayerful consideration.

The Mission of Miracles is back again. There is a list of items the people need in El Salvador. If you desire, please take a copy and support this worthy project. The people traveling to El Salvador in February will give these items to the people in El Salvador and will be truly grateful for everything they receive. You can get these items at Wal-Mart and Dollar Stores for a very reasonable price.

After our church service and coffee hour on November 22, we will need about 5 or 6 people to clean the brass. We will need a couple of people to set up the Angel tree and place the angels on the tree. The larger tree will need to be set up in the Parish Hall and if there is time, the children would be happy to decorate it.

St. Ann's thanks our delegates and alternate delegates who will be attending convention on November 14th. The Delegates are Marissa Harding and Dan Vail. Alternates are Denise Becker and Tom Vail. Our alternates have been to convention before and they will guide our new Delegates through the process.

Excerpt from "Centennial Revisited" booklet

The cross on the altar at St. Ann's bears the following memorial inscription: "Amelia Clapper, 1833—1904"

The Centennial booklet notes that Amelia was a musician and that she played the organ at St. Ann's as long as she was able and had music pupils. Her sister Beolia Clapper was an invalid and lived with her. Amelia is another example of "one of the saints." Take a look at the cross when you have a chance.

Vestry Highlights

1. Decided to use the money returned by the Heart Association to offset the cost of transporting goods and purchasing medical items for the Mission of Miracles.
2. Made a donation to Project Paw.
3. Working on selecting a family for this year's Angel Tree project. Each child will receive an article of clothing and a toy.
4. Brass cleaning will be November 22nd. in preparation for Advent.
5. Discussed the future of the Clothes Closet. We need additional people to help with this outreach program or it may have to be discontinued.
6. Discussed filling the Interchurch Council position presently held by Jody.
7. Discussed filling the vestry position which will be vacant after the first of the year.
8. Calvin and Tracey volunteered their tractor and wagon for the Christmas parade if there is any interest in participating.
9. The treasurer has talked with a bookkeeper about conducting a quarterly review of the books as suggested in the recent audit.
10. Approved our pledge and assessment for the Diocese for 2016.

Kudos



THANKS! - Thank you to Duane Kane for providing the pumpkins for church school

THANKS! - Denise & Marissa for conducting Morning Prayer

THANKS! - Melrose Kelly & Judy Rettberg working at the Food Pantry

THANKS! - Betty and Dan for conducting Morning Prayer.

***Note:** If you know of one or more people who we should thank in this column, please pass that information on to Pete Vail or Jody Proffitt. We don't want to miss anyone!*

BISHOP SEARCH COMMITTEE

Father David has been asked to be on the Bishop search committee. Please keep Fr. David and the other search committee members in your prayers

All Saints Sunday November 1st.

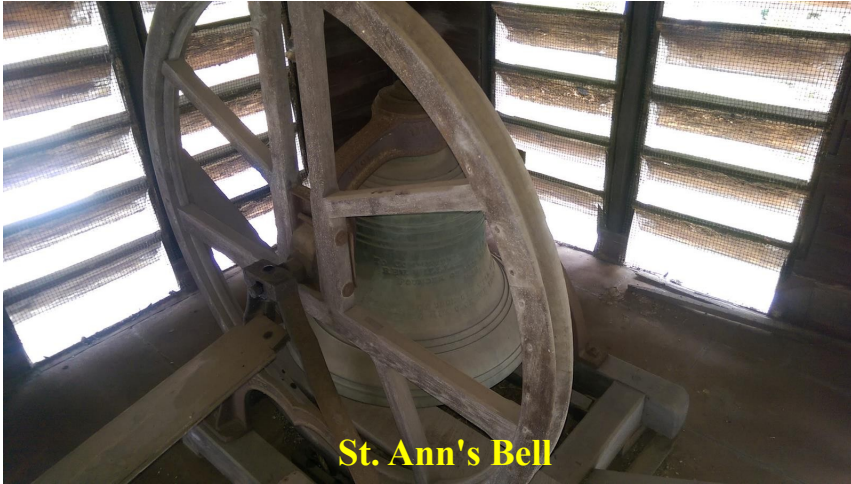
All Saints Sunday approaches. On that Sunday we recite as part of our prayers a list of all those buried throughout its history from the St. Ann's. Our prayers also include anyone our current and recent parishioners have asked to be included in the list. The observance of this day, to celebrate all Christian saints, both known and unknown, is first referenced in the writing of St. Ephrem of Syria who died in 373 C. E. The observance was not firmly established until May 13, 609 or 610, when Pope Boniface IV consecrated the Roman Pantheon to Christian usage. The November 1st. day for the observance began when Pope Gregory III dedicated on November 1st. a chapel to "All the Saints" in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome sometime before 741 C. E.

Believing God's love in Christ is for all creation, we expand the definition of saint a bit. All of us have our saintly moments and all of us our moments when we forget our calling to love all of God's creation and care for it.

Reading the extensive list this All Saints Day reminds us, and some of us will be remembering as well with thanks a recently deceased horse, or dog or other beloved creature. Halloween came out of Christianity's encounter with a Celtic festival called Samhain. We scare away our fears with costumes and humor, and with gifts to each other. The word Halloween refers to the Eve of All Saints Day.

(All Hallow Eve)

There is a list in the Parish Hall for listing individuals you would like included in the All Saints prayers. This article is borrowed from the newsletter of Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, Sherburne.



St. Ann's Bell



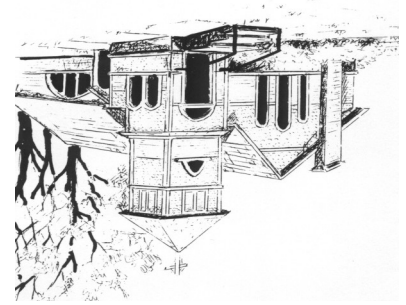
Mado climbs St. Ann's Bell Tower to service the Bell.



Bishop Skip Adams visits St. Ann's



Join us at St. Ann's and stay for fellowship at coffee hour.



Address label here

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Tracey Tallmadge

Wardens: Betty Vail

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



Then Jesus said:) ... Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Luke 6: 31

Most of us recognize this command from Jesus as The Golden Rule. Chances are it is as familiar to us as is The Lord's Prayer. Some say that this "rule" serves as a perfect summary of the kind of righteousness the kingdom of heaven expects in respect to our relation to others. Others say that Jesus was simply repeating what had already been taught by others. For example, Hinduism teaches: This is the sum of duty: do naught to others which if done to thee would cause thee pain. Buddhism teaches: Hurt not others with that which pains yourself. Jewish traditions teach: What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow men. That is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary. The Muslim religion teaches: No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.

At first these all sound like many different ways of expressing the same concept. But a closer look reveals that Jesus' "rule" is positive whereas most other expressions of the rule are not. That is, Jesus says "Do unto others what you want them to do to you." The others say "Don't do to others what you don't want done to you." With the others, all that is required is that you don't harm other people. With Jesus, what is required is that you show kindness to others. In a sense, this takes relationships to a higher level, what might be called a proactive approach.

The Golden Rule, then, prescribes righteous conduct towards others that is in perfect harmony with the Law and the Prophets. It is always available for us to use as a guide for proper conduct and, if used, it is unlikely that we'll ever go wrong. May God grant us the grace to always do to others as we would have them do to us.

PCV