

## Sharing God's Love in Our Community Through Prayer, Study and Action

**St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY**

(Member of the Chenango District)

# The Parish News

[www.stannsaftonny.org](http://www.stannsaftonny.org)

The Newsletter of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Afton, NY

**Clergy: The Reverend Fr. David A. Hanselman Cell: 761-4601 Office: 656-9502**

If you desire Father David to visit you or give you a call, please contact him at one of the numbers above.

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

**Wardens: Betty Vail: 639-1201 Tracey Tallmadge: 343-1301**



*From Fr. Dave*

April! Eastertide! Alleluia! Alleluia!

What a month this is going to be! First off, for our diocese, by the end of this month we will have the slate of candidates to be our next Bishop. It's been a lot of hard work - and until the slate is finally named, it'll continue to be a lot of hard work! But, it is good work. Important work. Looking ahead, the dates and places for the walkabout - the diocese's opportunity to meet and chat with the candidates - have been set:

Wednesday, July 20, 5:00-10:00pm at Trinity Church, Watertown

Thursday, July 21, 5:00-10:00pm at Sts Peter & John, Auburn

Friday, July 22, 5:00-10:00pm at St John's, Oneida

Saturday, July 23, at St Paul's, Owego (time is tentatively scheduled for 5:00-10:00pm)

Another exciting thing happening in April is that Zion, Greene will be hosting the diocese's New Beginnings weekend - April 15-17! It's an exciting opportunity for diocesan youth to meet one another and share meaningful faith experiences. Also, since I won't be able to be at Zion on that Sunday, the youth will play important roles in the Morning Prayer service.

There will also be weddings and baptisms and no doubt a funeral or two. Hopefully, throughout all the amazing days of Eastertide, you will carry a heart filled with wonder that Jesus Christ is risen from the grave. Live in confidence that God can overcome human sinfulness and death. Live in confidence that God has an amazing plan for renewed life. And let that confidence lead you forth to do the amazing work God has set before you.

To borrow a phrase from one of my favorite theologians, N.T. Wright, let us be like the first disciples, who upon witnessing Jesus' resurrected form, did NOT say, "Jesus is risen, whew! Let's rest on our laurels." No, the first disciples, upon witnessing the risen Christ said, "Jesus is risen! We've got work to do!"



Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Apr 3	HC	R.Sherman	D.Becker	DV	JR	B.Vail/D.Vail
Apr 10	MP	A.Wieber	J.Rettberg	BV	-----	D.Becker
Apr 17	HC	C.Cimini	A.Cimini	AC	CC	A.Cimini/B.Vail
Apr 24	MP	T.Vail	C.Tarvin	RF	-----	D.Vail
May 1	HC	T.Tallmadge	B.Vail	TV	TT	Tracey/B.Vail
<b>Church School</b>						
<b>Church School</b>			<b>Morning Prayer</b>		<b>Food Pantry</b>	
Apr 3	K.Vail					
Apr 10	M. Kelly	T.Vail	T.Tallmadge	Apr. 11	B.Vail/D.Kane	
Apr 17	T.Tallmadge			Apr 13	R.Felldin/M.Kelly	
Apr 24	B.Vail	J.Rettberg	R.Felldin			

**Altar Guild Duty** for the month of April is Grace Affuso 639-2961 and Betty Vail 639-1201. If you are giving flowers in memory a loved one, please notify Peter Vail 607-639-1444 no later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that he can include a notice in the bulletin. Many thanks to Carol and Mado Cimini for making the Palm crosses this year. Many thanks to the men who helped with kitchen duty at the Easter Sunrise service.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

Lectionary (Year C)					
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading
Apr. 3	HC	Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14-29	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
Apr. 10	MP	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
Apr. 17	HC	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
Apr. 24	MP	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
May 1	HC	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21: 10,22- 22:5	John 14:23-29

**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!

## St. Ann's Prayer List for April 2016



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, Clifford, Richard, Don,  
 Pastor Sue, Andrea, Adrianna, Diane, Jan, Larry, Steve, Derek,  
 Annika, Declan, Gabby, Judy, Dakota, Tommy, Kevin, Foster, Frances,  
 Fr. David Hanselman, Fr. Bruce MacDuffie, Fr. Chuck Taylor, Bishop "Skip" Adams,  
 Bishop Michael Curry, The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph, Mother Lisa Busby, Pope Francis,  
 Zion Church, St. Paul's Church, The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church,  
 The Vestry of St. Ann's and The Bishop Search Committee



### THE FOLLOWING PRAYER IS SUGGESTED BY BISHOP SKIP

*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.*

The above is from the Evening Prayer service in the Book of Common Prayer.



Easter Flowers – 2016

#### Given By:

Carol Tarvin  
 Judy Rettberg  
 Melrose Kelly  
 Woodie Robins  
 Denise Becker & Amy Wieber  
 Cindy Johnson  
 Cindy Johnson  
 Amedo & Carol Cimini  
 Grace Affuso  
 Tom & Betty Vail  
 Dan, Kerri, Ally, Garrett Vail  
 Duane Kane

#### In Memory Of:

Clyde Tarvin  
 Departed Loved Ones  
 Our Loved Ones  
 Our Loved Ones  
 Loved Ones  
 Harold and Sue Trick  
 Elinor and Larry Johnson  
 Our Loved Ones  
 Tony  
 Our Loved Ones  
 Loved Ones  
 Family

Ron & Cindy Sherman  
 Rylee & Adleigh Noone  
 St. Ann's

Loved Ones  
 Addison Ann Noone  
 People who loved and served St. Ann's



## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

1. There was discussion on St. Ann's "Angel Tree" program. It was decided to change how this program is handled starting next fall. It was also agreed that St. Ann's would help students who needed clothing items during the school year.
2. For outreach, it was voted to send a donation to The Afton Glenwood Cemetery.
3. Denise Becker and Tracey Tallmadge were approved as delegates to this year's convention and also to vote on the new Bishop. Alternate delegates will be selected at a later date.
4. Reported that the final distribution for the Todd Estate should be made in the next few months. After discussion, it was approved to tithe these funds to the Episcopal Relief and Development organization for use outside of the Parish. It was also suggested that the young people help select some animals to be sent to needy families.
5. It was approved to provide St. Ann's usual scholarship of \$200 to a graduating senior at Afton Central School, preferably to go to a student who does not receive other awards.
6. The men plan to do the Mother's Day breakfast again this year.
7. Treasurer reported that we are solvent and all bills are paid. We apparently will get a quarterly statement, from Zion Greene, itemizing Fr. David's salary and expenses.



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



Many thanks to Robin and Lauren for their preparations in having an Easter Egg hunt for the children after our Easter service. It was a beautiful morning and everyone had a great time.

Thank you to Mado and Carol Cimini for sharing their Wedding Anniversary by hosting the coffee hour after our Easter Service.



## BISHOP SEARCH COMMITTEE

Father David is on the Bishop search committee. Please keep Fr. David and the other search committee members in your prayers.

“We’re feeling very hopeful and optimistic as we look at the number and quality of our nominees,” stated the Very Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, Chair of the Search Committee.

A slate of 3-5 candidates will be announced in late April or early May 2016. Please hold the nominees, the Search Committee, and our Diocese in prayer as we pray and discern.

For more information about the Search for the Eleventh Bishop of Central New York, please visit the website: <http://www.bishopcny.org/> or the Facebook page, Bishop Search-Episcopal Diocese of Central New York!



## A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP TRANSITION COMMITTEE OF CNY

Because of its origins, the Episcopal Church is considered apostolic, as its bishops can be traced back to the original apostles via holy orders. The word “episcopal” refers to government by bishops. The historic episcopate (bishop) continues the work of the first apostles in the Church: guarding the faith, unity and discipline of the Church, and ordaining men and women to continue Christ’s ministry. Bishops are also chief priests and pastors and, by their devotion to the people of their jurisdictions, rightly influence the spiritual character of their dioceses.

Bishops in the Episcopal Church are elected by clergy and lay delegates who represent all the people of a diocese. And so it is that, during this particular year, a new bishop will be selected to lead the people of this diocese, from Utica to Waterloo, from the St. Lawrence River to the Pennsylvania frontier. The process for the election of a bishop is not complicated but it is specific so following the plan and schedule is important. Ponder, for example, the wise maidens in Matthew's Gospel, who, unlike their foolish companions, were prepared when the time came. They had not lost sight of the plan and we have the advantage of knowing the schedule!

Parishes need to prepare for the upcoming election. Of course, all required paperwork needs to be kept up-to-date, but the focus of this letter is to remind you that Delegates to Convention need to be chosen promptly! ***The Delegates from your parish will actually be attending two conventions: the special Electing Convention on August 6<sup>th</sup>, and the annual Diocesan Convention on November 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>*** and they must be elected by early May. Ms. Debbie Nettle will be sending forms for Delegate certification by mid-April. To be wise and not foolish, you should be prepared to return the forms without delay, so that your parish will be represented at both Conventions, and have a voice in this historic election.

## The Season of Easter

Easter is full of stories: brave stories of disciples witnessing to their new faith in the risen Jesus; mysterious, wondrous, and challenging stories of an empty tomb and Jesus alive, bringing joy and courage to friends who had denied him, who were fearful and disheartened. “Peace be with you.” “I have seen the Lord.” “The Lord has risen indeed.” “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”

Early on the first day of the week, Jesus comes to Mary, who at first mistakes him for the gardener. “Mary,” he says to her, and she recognizes her risen Lord. Later that day he is a wayfarer opening the scriptures for Cleopas and another disciple who are on their way to the village of Emmaus, where he will be known to them in the breaking of the bread. Then Thomas cannot believe unless he sees and touches the marks of the nails and the wound in Jesus’ side. A week later Jesus stands among them and invites Thomas to reach out and touch. “My Lord and my God!” Thomas responds. Several weeks afterward, the disciples are fishing on Lake Galilee (or Tiberias) when, just after daybreak, there is Jesus standing on the beach, though at first they do not recognize him.

There are yet more stories of Jesus’ appearing to his disciples. Paul tells of an appearance to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at once. Sometimes they are frightened and doubting, thinking they may have seen a ghost, before their fears are overcome and they are filled with new hope and joy.

These are, indeed, wondrous and challenging stories in which Jesus is at first often not recognized. But there must have been something in the timbre of his voice. They see his scars. They know him in the breaking of the bread—in the sharing of the bread and wine. The Spirit of Jesus is alive among them! God’s love overcomes even the mighty power of death. The disciples can tell his stories again and then eat of the bread and wine with him. They can again tell of the inbreaking kingdom of God and proclaim the Lord Jesus, who now is King of the realm of God’s ways. He not only spoke the words of God to them, he himself is God’s Word of new life to all people. They have joy to share, a witness to offer, a service to render. Fear and guilt in their lives have been replaced by peace and a new faith, and we now are called to retell their stories and help bring peace, renewed faith, joy, courage, and love to the world.

## The Final Word



*Then Jesus told him, "you believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who haven't seen me and believe anyway".*

*John 20:29*

In the Gospel reading for Easter 2, Jesus addresses a human characteristic that I suspect most, if not all, of us experience at one time or another. It is called doubt and it occurs when we do not have enough information to convince us of something. As for Thomas, he was being asked to believe something that was unheard of in his experience. And what does he do? He declares what it will take to assuage his doubts. And what does Jesus do? He offers Thomas the opportunity to do exactly what he had specified would be required to satisfy his doubts. The author of John's Gospel doesn't make it clear whether or not Thomas took Jesus up on his invitation, only that the offer was made.

So where does that leave us? Our doubt may be ok especially if it prompts us to get more information. Regular study of the Scriptures and other Christian literature can have only a positive effect on our spiritual journey. And as we get to know God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit better and better, our doubts will disappear and be replaced by a growing faith that God is always with us and will give us all that we need for living a godly life. What more can we ask?

PCV

### St. Ann's Episcopal Church

P. O. Box 22

Afton, New York 13730

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR  
COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY  
AND ACTION

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Wardens: Betty Vail

Tracey Tallmadge

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

