

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

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

Greetings! It's August!

July is done. Once again District Work Days and Water Safari trip went really well. It was a personal honor for me to help continue a couple wonderful events that Fr Chuck Taylor insured happened every year to help bring the folks and communities of our district together. As with everything we do, it wasn't just the work of one person, me, making sure it happened. Lots of folks helped - Lynne Walton, Bill Brower, wardens from Emmanuel, Norwich, St Andrew's, New Berlin and St Matthew's, South New Berlin, along with everyone who showed up to work and play!

Looking ahead to August, we've got to major high points - Bishop election on Aug 6th and District pig roast on Aug 7th. At the pig roast this year we will be blessing and dedicating a set of Stations of the Cross in honor of Fr Chuck's life and service at St Andrew's, New Berlin. I've seen the set and they are beautifully carved wood. I encourage everyone to find their way to St Andrew's by 2pm on Aug 7th, to help celebrate our common life and honor the memory of Fr Chuck.

August also means lots of folks on vacation. It's important from time to time to really take an intentional step back and relax with friends and family. Please, be safe. Please, do not forget your pledge. Please do not forget your prayers and study of Scripture. Regular reading and praying can really help us through our days and help keep us focused on the things God sets before us. Taking time away with friends and family is an excellent time to also relax and read Scripture - our family, friends and faith are incredible gifts from our loving God.

May God's peace be with you all.

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!

Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
		August 7	C.Tenwolde	August 8	Pat & Al Tucker	
		August 14	T.Vail/D.Vail	August 10	K.Vail, & children	
		August 28	B.Vail/D.Vail			
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Aug 7	MP	A.Wieber	D.Wieber	MH	----	D.Wieber/M.Boston
Aug 14	MP	P.Tucker	C.Tarvin	TV	----	G.Vail/B.Vail
Aug 21	HC	M.Boston	J.Rettberg	BV	JR	B.Vail/A.Vail
Aug 28	MP	B.Vail	D.Vail	KV&DV	-----	A.Vail
Sept 4	HC	C.Cimini	C.Tarvin	DW	CC	B.Vail/A.Cimini
Lectionary (Year C)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Aug 7	MP	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40	
Aug 14	MP	Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18	Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2	Luke 12:49-56	
Aug 21	HC	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17	
Aug 28	MP	Jeremiah 2:4-13	Psalm 81: 1, 10-16	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14	
Sept 4	HC	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Philemon 1:1-1:21	Luke 14:25-33	

Altar Guild Duty for the month of August 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.

Father David will be at St. Ann's along with Deacon Kay Drebert on our fifth Sunday, July 31st. This is the last day Father David and Deacon Kay will be with us as we celebrate Morning Prayer August 7 and 14 and they will be on vacation the following Sunday, August 21st. If you desire to visit with Father David, please do so on July 31st as he will be available for conversation.

Rev. Elizabeth Groskoph will conduct Holy Eucharist on Sunday, August 21st. We look forward to her presence.



St. Ann's Prayer List

We would like to try a change on the prayer list listings. As an experiment, we will list names as “long term” and “short term.” Submitted names are placed on the short term list for four weeks and then moved to long term by request of the person submitting the name, or by need known by the Rector.

You will also see below the prayer list CELEBRATIONS IN AUGUST. We would like to start putting in the names of those who have Birthdays and Anniversaries in the current month. We will be asking for this info soon.

Comments and suggestions are welcome. Thank you!!



PRAYER LIST AUGUST

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

Short Term:

Wilber, Gabby, Michael, Cheryl, Suzanne, Harry

Long Term:

Carol, Peter, Joyce, Mya, Holly, Cindy, Lois, Clifford, Richard, Dakota, Derek, Declan, Annika, Elliott, Sasha, Fr. David Hanselman, Fr. Bruce MacDuffie, Deacon Kay, Bishop "Skip" Adams, Bishop Michael Curry, The Revs. Ralph & Liz Groskoph. Pope Francis, Zion Church, St. Paul's Church

CELEBRATIONS IN AUGUST



Birthdays



Anniversaries

01 Example 1
02 Example 2
10 Example 6
25 Example 25
30 Example 30
31 Example 50

15 Example 15
16 Example 26
17 Example 31
18 Example 55



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, sooth 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.



Offering envelopes are in the Parish Hall, take one and put down your number on the yellow pad. If you have not returned your card, it is not too late. Please put the card in the envelope that was provided and put it in the offering plate or mail to:

**St. Ann's Church
P. O. Box 22
Afton, N. Y. 13730**

The Lord loves a cheerful giver.
Thank you to all for your support of our Parish!!!



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

No Vestry meeting in July/August. We will resume our normal third Sunday meetings after church in September. Should you have a need during August, please contact your wardens Betty Vail or Tracey Tallmadge.



CHENANGO DISTRICT NEWS

The annual pig roast will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in New Berlin on August 7 beginning with Holy Eucharist at 2:00p.m. A potluck meal will be held after the service. Please bring a dish to pass.

This article was written by the Rev. Joseph Hedden, a pastor with the United Church of Christ. It could apply to any denomination

[“The Future Ain’t What It Used To Be”](#)

by [pastor joseph hedden](#)

"The Future Ain't What It Used To Be." So said legendary baseball catcher Yogi Berra in the 1970's. Anyone who has ministered in mainline churches in the United States in the last 30 or so years can sympathize. Denominational churches' futures seem bleak. The United Church of Christ was born in mid-20th Century ecumenical excitement--In 1957, birth rates were rising (the post-war baby boom was in full swing), churches were thriving, Sunday Schools prepared the next generation for church leadership, and congregational life flourished. Today, due to changing demographics and rapid societal/technological transformation, United Church of Christ congregations don't resemble our 1950's forebears at all. Churches that cannot adapt close at alarming rates. There doesn't seem to be great reason to be hopeful for the future of our beloved denomination. On July 12th, 2016, Simon and Schuster published the much-anticipated book ["The End of White Christian America"](#) by Robert P. Jones. Dr. Jones is the founding CEO of the [Public Religion Research Institute \(PRRI\)](#) and a scholar and consultant in both religion in the United States and sociology. He has studied the demographic trends of the United States and has written what he calls an 'obituary' for white Protestants. An oft cited statistic demonstrates just how much change the mainline (and evangelical) Protestants have seen since the late 20th Century: "In 1993, the year Bill Clinton took office, a healthy 51 percent of Americans 'identified as white Protestants.' In 2014, 'that percentage dropped to 32,' " cites [Sam Tanenhaus](#) in a New York Times Book Review. Add to that demographic shift the increased individuality of Millennials, new religious movements, multicultural and multi ethnic communities and one can see how Christian congregations might have been caught unawares by the rapid pace of change in the early 21st Century.

What might happen, though, if we reframe the story a little bit? Yes, the culture has changed and so will the church. And change is almost always painful. What might it mean that our communities are more diverse than even the UCC founders dreamed of in 1957? Isn't that a good thing? Can't we envision "God Still Speaking" through the United Church of Christ 30 or 40 years from now? The Prophet Joel certainly thought so: "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions." (Joel 2:28). Is God calling us to get out in front of such a demographic shift, instead of falling behind, merely responding to change?

Another helpful way to reframe our situation is to remember that mid-20th Century white Protestantism was the exception, not the rule. While many of our members feel nostalgic for the good old days (read: 1950's) when congregations had to put up extra chairs in the sanctuary for Easter worship, such high church attendance was not the norm throughout the history of the United States. Roger Finke and Rodney Stark point this out well

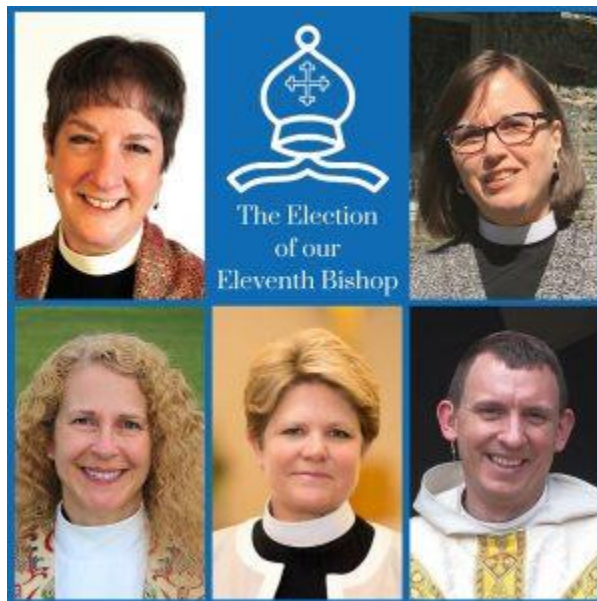
in their 1992 book "[The Churching of America 1776-1990.](#)" They demonstrate that the post-WWII period in U.S. history had the highest percentage of religious adherence (See chart). In other words, the church has been here before!

So, to reframe: We can choose to lament that the future didn't turn out like we had hoped. Or, we can remember, that our faith in Jesus Christ drives us on to meet challenges. Sure, our congregations have changed and our expectations have changed. But what in modern life doesn't change? Our unique leadership skills, personalities, and gifts are what God has nurtured in us "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14)--in service to our congregations and to the world. What if we look at the world unfolding before us as an opportunity and a challenge rather than a disappointment? My hope and prayer is that we will learn from Jesus what it means that "The fields are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35)

**ELECTION CONVENTION:
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2016
HOLIDAY INN LIVERPOOL, NY!**

The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York will hold a Special Convention to elect our eleventh Bishop on Saturday, August 6, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, New York. The doors will open, and registration will begin, at 7:30 a.m. The Convention will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Active members of the clergy who are unable to attend Convention should notify the bishop in writing and provide the reason for their absence.



St. Ann's delegates are Tracey Tallmadge and Denise Wieber. God willing, there will be live-feed of the Electing Convention available at bishopcny.org via the Facebook page Bishop Search Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

Please visit bishopcny.org to learn more about the candidates in our Special Election to elect our Eleventh Bishop.

The Final Word

What is faith? It is the confident assurance what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. Hebrews 11: 1

This verse is taken from the Epistle reading for Pentecost 12. The beginning point of faith is believing in God's character—he is who he says he is. From this point we can move on to believe in God's promises—he will do what he says he will do. When we believe that God will fulfill his promises even though we don't see those promises materializing yet, we demonstrate true faith. Hopelessness is the dark suspicion that things will get worse, not better. Whenever we see the future with more clouds, more darkness, more trouble, more pain, more problems, we invite the spirit of hopelessness to invade our being and possess us. On the other hand, if we truly see a better way for the future, the sun shines and we find hope even in the presence of trouble, pain, problems, and darkness. At the heart of Hebrews is Christ, "the better way," who brings us hope. Who can doubt that it is better to be forgiven than to be condemned? Who can doubt that to walk with Christ is a better way than to walk with Satan? Christ offers hope for today and hope forever. We can face our problems today because we face them with Jesus, our eternal hope. We have hope for tomorrow because through his blood, he bought our redemption and brings us the promise of life forever with him in heaven. This hope enables us to hold fast, come to God's throne boldly in prayer, and find help in Christ in time of need. The next time a spirit of hopelessness sweeps over you, study Hebrews and discover the better way in Jesus Christ, our great High Priest. **PCV+**

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 AND ACTION**

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Wardens: Betty Vail
 Tracey Tallmadge

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

