

## 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*

I sincerely hope this doesn't upset anyone, but I realized something a couple weeks ago - labels aren't always helpful. Simple lesson, but here's how it happened.

First off, I like horror movies. They're not everyone's cup of tea and some folks might think it strange for a priest but we can psychoanalyze me sometime later. The simple truth is I like horror movies and I was reading a review of a new one - The Witch.

The review said that there's a group who thinks it's a wonderful movie for depicting the horror of what can happen to individuals under Theocratic Patriarchy. That caught my attention. You see, theocratic patriarchy has perpetrated some really unjust actions against people - most famously with the Inquisition and the Salem Witch Trials. Additionally, the Episcopal Church - even with its traditional identification as "The Nation's Church" because of all the Presidents and other officials who have been members - the Episcopal Church has never to my knowledge supported theocratic patriarchy. It's played a role in the patriarchy - the rule by men - of much of US history, but it's never to my knowledge held that the US should be governed by church officials. Theocratic patriarchy - the governing of a populace by male religious leaders - has never been held by Episcopalians.

So, I thought whoever this group is that recommends The Witch because it shows the horror of theocratic patriarchy is a group that has something in common with the Episcopal Church. Well, there's no easy way to say this, but that group just happens to be the Satanic Church.

SMH - shake my head. Really, that's all I could do; aside from hoping the hardcore fundamentalists don't make the same connection. They already have enough bad things to say about Episcopalians, they really don't need to know we have this in common with satanists!

But it also goes to show how powerful and misleading labels can sometimes be. True, satanists go way too far in pushing individualism, but it's still important to appreciate that each individual is a creature of God. And during Lent, it's important to reflect upon the labels we sometimes casually and carelessly place on others. Lent is a time for reflecting upon and deepening our understanding of God, Jesus and our place in the world. Blessings!

### SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

Service Schedule						
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Mar 6	HC	T.Tallmadge	B.Vail	TV	MH	Tracey/Betty
Mar 13	MP	T.Vail	R.Felldin	RF	----	D.Vail
Mar.20	HC	R.Felldin	D.Becker	----	DB	Tracey/Betty
Mar 24	HC	B.Vail	T.Tallmadge	----	TT	B.Vail
Mar 25	HC	D.Becker	J.Rettberg	----	DB	
Mar 26	HC	(Readers listed below)			DB	B.Vail
Mar 27	HC	A.Wieber	R.Felldin	----	DB	Betty/Tracey
Apr. 3	HC	R.Sherman	D.Becker	DV	JR	B.Vail/D.Vail
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Mar 6	T.Vail			Mar 14	Betty/Duane	
Mar 13	R.Felldin	B.Vail	B.Wright	Mar 16	Jane Seacat/M.Kelly	

Lectionary (Year C)					
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading
Mar 6	HC	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3,11b-32
Mar 13	MP	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Mar 20	HC	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 91:1-16	Philippians 2:5-11	
Mar 24	Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4{5-10}11-14	Psalm 116:1,10-17	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17,31b-35
Mar 25	Good Friday				
Mar 26	Easter Vigil	<b>Readings from Fr. Dave</b>			
Mar 27	HC	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2,14-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	John 20:1-18
Apr 3	HC	Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14-29	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31

**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!

**Altar Guild Duty:** ALTAR GUILD for the month of March: Tracey Tallmadge (607-343-1301). Throughout Lent, flowers are not placed on the Altar until Easter Day.



### St. Ann's Prayer List for March 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, Sally, Clifford, Richard,  
 Don, Pastor Sue, Andrea, Adrianna, Diane, Charlie, Jan, Larry, Steve,  
 Derek, Annika, Declan, Gabby, Judy, Dakota, Tommy, Kevin,  
 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, 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.**



### The Season of Lent

Lent begins in ashes. On Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our mortality and sin. It is not a time for groveling; rather, it is a time for reality, for genuine humility, for repentance and forgiveness and renewed commitment to following the ways of Jesus. Lent is a season of preparation, and we are already looking forward to Jesus' passion and death for us and then to Easter.

One of the oldest names for Lent is "the forty days," meaning the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter, less the Sundays that can be observed as anticipations of Easter, days of rest from fasting or other disciplines in order to strengthen ourselves. "Forty" is a kind of generic number in scripture and calls quickly to mind significant

biblical stories: the forty days of Noah's flood; Moses' forty days on Mount Sinai; and the forty days that Nineveh was given to repent. We particularly think of the forty years that Israel was in the wilderness and the forty days Jesus was out in the wilderness, tempted by Satan.

During the forty days of Lent God's people are invited again into a wilderness experience, not without temptation, to fast in one way or another, to pray and to seek in hope and trust to follow and serve their Lord. With the people of God in ages past, we are on a pilgrimage through a wilderness of renewal and faith to the promised land and of following Jesus on the way to agony, passion and death—and then new life. "Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay." *The Hymnal, 1982. Hymn 142*

These themes will repeat themselves throughout Lent: journey, pilgrimage, wilderness, preparation, honest reflection, repentance, forgiveness, humility, renewal, following Jesus. Readers of scripture have the opportunity to invite others to join them in this journey of renewal and faith.



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!!!



**EASTER LILY INFORMATION**

If anyone would like an Easter lily in memory of a loved one, please call Betty Vail at 639-1201 or e-mail her at [Bettom415@aol.com](mailto:Bettom415@aol.com). Orders will need to be in **no later than March 11**.



## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Directed our “outreach” donation for February to the Danielle House in Binghamton, a facility that provides shelter and emotional support for families of seriously ill patients in Binghamton area hospitals.
2. Discussed confirmation classes with Fr. David as he described the proposed curriculum. Classes are planned on a District wide basis. Approved purchasing personal Prayer Books for anyone attending these classes.
3. Reviewed the Easter Week services. **St. Ann’s is hosting the Easter Sunrise service this year, with breakfast to follow.** Due to Fr. David conducting the Sunrise service, he has made arrangements for supply clergy for the 9:15 A.M. Easter service.
4. The “Jump Start” program, which gives parishes suggestions on the use of their buildings, will be held April 23<sup>rd</sup> in Syracuse. **Information at this link: "[Jump Start](#)"**
5. Denise and Tracey offered, if no one else volunteers, to be delegates for St. Ann’s for the Bishop voting on August 6<sup>th</sup> and the convention on November 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. **Two alternates are still needed.** There will be several “walk around” days to give delegates and any interested parishioners a chance to talk with the Bishop candidate finalists. Dates to be announced.
6. St. Ann’s Vestry Day will be held Saturday morning March 5<sup>th</sup>. at the Parish Hall, chaired by Fr. Chuck Taylor, and running from 9 to 12. Vestry members were asked to consider pros and cons for the past five years and think about suggestions for the future.
7. Discussed the possible purchase of a heart defib machine for the Parish Hall. Also discussed the possibility of a parish registry with pictures of parishioners.
8. A new printer has been donated by Gary and Bobbi Zurn, for use with the computer in the Parish Hall.
9. Treasurer’s report and highlights for 2015 presented by treasurer Pete Vail. Reports accepted with thanks to Pete for his dedicated and faithful management of the financial affairs of the Church.



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



Daylight Savings Begins at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> Lent 5. Don’t forget to set your clocks **ahead** one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>!



## Treasurer's 2015 Year End Highlights

1. St. Ann's finished the year 2015 with a healthy positive cash flow. That is, our income exceeded our expenses by about \$2685, an enviable position in which to find ourselves. It was partly due to being under spent by about \$1,000 for fuel oil. Another factor in 2015's positive cash flow is that we are blessed to have steady, reliable financial support from our parishioners including some who continue to provide support even though they have left the area. Many thanks to all of you!
2. Our church building and capital equipment are in good shape thanks to a vestry and some parishioners who recognized the value of keeping our church plant in good repair. This year new basement windows have improved both the appearance and the energy efficiency.
3. We have been able to increase our portion of Fr. Dave's support to 25%.
4. Our outreach (including support of the diocese) amounted to approximately 18.5% of our outflows. In addition, significant amounts of clothing was distributed by St. Ann's Closet.
5. We are debt free.
6. In accordance with the diocese's wishes, we were audited by an outside firm. Minor discrepancies that were found have been addressed and corrected.

Finally, thanks again to the family that is St. Ann's. Your support and understanding make the job of Treasurer much easier and more enjoyable than it otherwise would be.

Pete Vail



## 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 Final Word



**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

