

## 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*

Let me cut right to the chase - I've got to tell you about a book I'm reading! It's *Virtually Christian: How Christ Changes Human Meaning and Makes Creation New* and it's by one of my seminary professors, Dr. Anthony Bartlett. In particular, I want to share one incredible idea his book presents.

But first, let me take a little step back and provide some context. How do we first form our idea of God? That is, what are the things we first look at to help us form our understanding of God? It seems to me that many, many people start with the Bible. And, in particular, they start with the beginning of the Bible - Genesis - and work their way forward from there.

And so, people begin their understanding of God by reading how God formed the universe, how God set Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the Fall from Eden and all the many events that followed. The enslavement in Egypt and the escape to the Promised Land, the conquering of the Promised Land and the history of Israel. After all these many events, we then come to the New Testament and Jesus.

My point is, by the time we get to Jesus, we've already formed some sort of complex understanding of God. And this is where one comment in particular really struck me from Dr Bartlett's book. Dr Bartlett asks his readers to consider something shockingly fundamental about God; that is, take seriously Jesus' statement about himself that "No one has seen the Father, except the one who has come from God; he has seen the Father". That is, consider that the only way for us to really understand God, the God that Jesus called Father, and the very same God that played such a central role in the Old Testament, is to rely first and foremost on what Jesus says about God. If Jesus is right, then Jesus is the one who offers us a distinctly privileged understanding of God.

Now, I refuse to believe that reading the Old Testament might be a complete waste of time, but I am convinced that it's crucially important to see God as Jesus saw God. Jesus spoke frequently about the kingdom of God and God's forgiveness. Jesus questioned popular beliefs about God's attitudes towards sinners - the man born blind, the adulteress, lepers, tax collectors, even the Roman soldiers occupying their nation!

What, if any, difference does this make? I think it's profound. What do you think? As always, blessing upon blessing to you!

## 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		
Nov 6	M.Cimini					
Nov 13	J.Rettberg	C.Cimini	C.Cimini	Nov 14	Pat & Al Tucker	
Nov 20	M.Kelly			Nov 16	M. Kelly & J. Seacat	
Nov 27	C.Sherman	D.Wieber	M.Harding			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>OT Reader</b>	<b>Epistle Reader</b>	<b>CS</b>	<b>EM</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>
Nov 6	HC	C.Cimini	A.Cimini	AC	CC	Tracey/ A.Cimini
Nov 13	MP	A.Wieber	D.Wieber	BV	-----	D.Wieber
Nov 20	HC	P.Tucker	R.Felldin	RF	BV	Tracey/A.Cimini
Nov 27	MP	B.Wright	J.Rettberg	MH	-----	B.Vail
Dec 4	HC	A.Wieber	C.Cimini	AC	CC	Tracey/D.Wieber
<b>Lectionary (Year C)</b>						
<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>OT Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle Reading</b>	<b>Gospel Reading</b>	
Nov 6 All Saints' Day	HC	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18	Psalm 149	Ephesians 1:11-23	Luke 6:20-31	
Nov 13	MP	Isaiah 65: 17-25	Psalm 98	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19	
Nov 20	HC	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Psalm 46	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43	
Nov 27 Year A	MP	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44	
Dec 4	HC	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12	

**Altar Guild Duty** for the month of November is Carol Cimini 693-2907 and Melrose Kelly 639-1090. . 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.

LIFE IS TEN PERCENT WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU & NINETY PERCENT HOW YOU RESPOND TO IT.

**St. Ann's Prayer List**



**for November 2016**

It has been suggested that parish prayer list be current listing follows. necessarily members of 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. Please note: Long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names for two months unless updated.

the names of individuals on the included in the newsletter. A The names listed are not the parish and may include

- Long Term**  
Carol  
Peter  
Joyce  
Mya  
Holly  
Cindy  
Lois  
Clifford  
Richard  
Dakota  
Derek  
Annika  
Declan  
Elliott  
Sasha  
Bob  
Sharon  
Fr. David Hanselman  
Fr. Bruce MacDuffie  
Deacon Kay  
Bishop "Skip" Adams

- Pastor Becky  
Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe  
Bishop Michael Curry  
The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph  
Emmanuel Church  
Epiphany Church  
Zion Church  
St. Paul's Church  
St. Andrew's Church  
St. Matthew's Church  
St. Peter's Church
- Short Term**  
Michael  
Gabby  
Cheryl  
Marsey  
Rev. Don Matthews
- Charles  
Kathleen  
Bonnie

**The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church  
The vestry of St. Ann's, Emanuel, Epiphany, & St. Peter's Churches**

**The following prayer 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.*

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the meeting for our area Church, 10 Henry 6:45 – 9:00 p.m. The Duncan-Probe will be future matters and to If you desire to Betty Vail 639-1201.

The Diocese of we are a part of, Salvador, our mission of Miracles medical January 2017. People El Salvador taking people as they cannot

their country. At St. Ann's we have a sheet with the list of items needed. They can be found at a dollar store or pharmacy. If you desire to participate, the items will need to be brought to St. Ann's no later than November 6. Our two delegates to convention will take everything with them to convention the following weekend. Your support for this outreach is truly appreciated. Thank you very much.

The brass at St. Ann's needs to be polished for the upcoming holidays. We will do this on Sunday, November 06 after coffee hour. Six or seven people are needed to polish. When we have many hands, the work is much lighter and goes quickly. Your support will be most appreciated.

On Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, our Bishop elect will be consecrated in Syracuse. More details on this will be in the November newsletter. Please let Father David know if you are interested in attending.



pre-convention Regional will be held at Christ Street, Binghamton from Bishop elect, DeDe in attendance to discuss greet everyone attending. attend, please contact

Central New York which supports people in El church. The 14<sup>th</sup> Mission mission will take place on from the Diocese travel to medical items to their get the needed supplies in



**Advance note! Daylight Savings time ends at 2 a.m. on All Saints' Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**

## CELEBRATIONS IN NOVEMBER



### *Birthdays*

06 Robin Feldin  
15 Sophia Hanselman  
30 Ariana Burch



### *Anniversaries*

15 Ron and Cindy Sherman  
24 Al and Pat Tucker

Please send your birthday/anniversary dates to me @ [cttallmadg@aol.com](mailto:cttallmadg@aol.com) or advise me at church.



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!!!

Oh, give thanks TO THE  
Lord FOR HE IS GOOD! FOR HIS mercies ENDURE FOREVER. PSALM 107:1

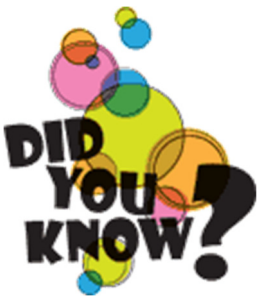


## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

St. Ann's Vestry Meeting  
10/16/2016

The following notes are from the October Vestry Meeting.

1. Vestry voted to send a contribution to the Diocese to help with the purchase of various items that the new Bishop will need, the "trappings" of her office so to speak.
2. There was discussion on the operation of the Clothes Closet. Out of the last three openings, two have had good attendance and one was a poor turnout. There were several suggestions on how we might change our operation. It was noted that we always need help from everyone in manning the Closet during the times that we are open.
3. St. Ann's received a generous donation from SERTOMA towards utilities and expenses. SERTOMA meets in the Parish Hall weekly. Since this donation was unexpected, it was voted to use these funds to help with Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for those less fortunate than we.
4. Cash Christmas gifts were approved for Fr. David, Deacon Kay, the sexton and lawn care folks.
5. Christmas Eve service will be in the 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. range and is to be discussed with Fr. David.
6. The Altar Guild is working on the purchase of new altar hangings and these are expected to be ordered shortly. The old hangings will be donated to another church via the Anglican Digest.
7. St. Ann's had offered to pay for ½ of the material cost for the new concrete sidewalk recently installed by the Village. The Village sent a note thanking the church but declining the offer.
8. The treasurer reported that we are operating "in the black." The treasurer was asked to contact Zion Church, Greene regarding the figures due them for Fr. David's salary and mileage.
9. The assessment and pledge figures received from the Diocese were approved for payment.
10. Next meeting is November 20<sup>th</sup>.



St. Ann's Vestry has a "soft space" at the back of the church, to provide a place where parents of small children can find a comfortable spot to let a child play during the service. A sponge rug has been placed by the rocking chair. Parents are encouraged to use this "soft spot" at any time. There is a supply of stuffed toys available.

**WITH God ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE. Matthew 19:26**



### The season of ADVENT (is here again)

**“Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding. ‘Christ is nigh,’ it seems to say.” I loved hearing this Advent hymn as a child. “Christmas is coming!” it told me. I could not wait. But I had to wait, even while something of the spirit of Christmas spilled over into the weeks before.**

**“The kingdom of God has come near,” Jesus proclaimed. One can still hear a breathlessness in that message. The ways of God are so near that they can be anticipated now. The new time is already begun. The kingdom is not way off in a distant heaven nor in a faraway future. It is upon us and among us, even while its fullness is yet to be realized.**

**“Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day,” the hymn continues. “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” It is a time of judgment. *Judgement* may seem like a harsh word, but who would want to live in a world where evil is not judged and the good not defended and cherished?**

**A lot is happening during the Advent season, and a lot is about to happen. This is a solemn time of waiting and expectation, of hope and also fear. Are we ready for this coming? Are we already now beginning to live by the ways of justice and God’s love? Are we ready to greet the One who says, “See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work.” Are we able to call out with the Seer, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” In Advent we pray, not without trepidation, for the return of the Lamb that was slain and to hear the voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them as their God; they will be God’s peoples, and God will be with them.” Advent may seem a welter of messages about already, almost, and not yet. Jesus has come, is near, will come. The kingdom is nigh, is begun, is coming. All this can sound mysterious and even confusing, especially to the linear-minded. But then, what else should we expect? This is about *God*. This is about the God who is the creator of innumerable galaxies and in whom we live and move and have our being. This is the God who is beyond all understanding, who yet draws near and even enters into human life--- Alpha and Omega, who was and is and is to come. How can we do more than begin to know this presence? How can we be other than in fear and longing, in wonder and thanksgiving?**

**“Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding.” It is our task as preachers and readers of the Word of God, standing before the bright eyes of children and the cautious eyes of grownups, amid all the pageantry and gladness, the hopes and heartbreaks of our lives, to catch expectation and awe in our words and tell again of the nearing God.**

**(this article was printed in November 2015 but bears repeating)**



By: Frederick Borsch.

# 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

**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

