

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

December! Christmas time is coming!

For this month, I'd like to use my space to highlight events for the month:

Harry Potter and the Bible will continue to meet Saturdays from 9-10:30am at my office at Zion and Sundays (except for Dec 24th) from 1-2:30pm at St Paul's rectory. Though I'm only a lukewarm fan, I have found it fascinating to compare episodes and principles!

I will hold a Longest Night service at Zion's chapel on Thursday Dec 21st at 6pm.

There will be no morning services on Dec 24th. But there will be 3pm and 7pm at St Paul's, 5pm and 9pm at Zion and 4:30pm at St Ann's with Fr Geoff Doolittle.

Additionally, St Peter's will hold a Quiet Day on Dec 16th from 10am - 3pm and will be based on Richard Rohr's Falling Upward.

And, since I have the space, I'd like to add just a little reflection about Christmas. In an important way, it's pretty astonishing that Christians celebrate Jesus Christ's birthday. Now, there are more than enough folks - both Christian and non-Christian folks - who will tell you that we shouldn't celebrate Christmas, but rest assured that I firmly think we should fully celebrate the birth of Christ.

But we probably ought to recognize that other than the so-called "the birthday of the Church", Jesus' birthday is the only birthday we celebrate. If you open your Prayer Book to the calendar at the front, there's a whole 12-month list of Saints' days we celebrate.

But those days aren't their birthdays. Those days are their death days. Those days are the first days of their new lives closer to God.

And yet we also honor the birth of Christ. The Incarnation. The day when God put on human form - the form of a helpless little baby, born to a poor couple in an unwelcoming stable in a tiny corner of the great Roman Empire. And the world has never been the same. Amen.

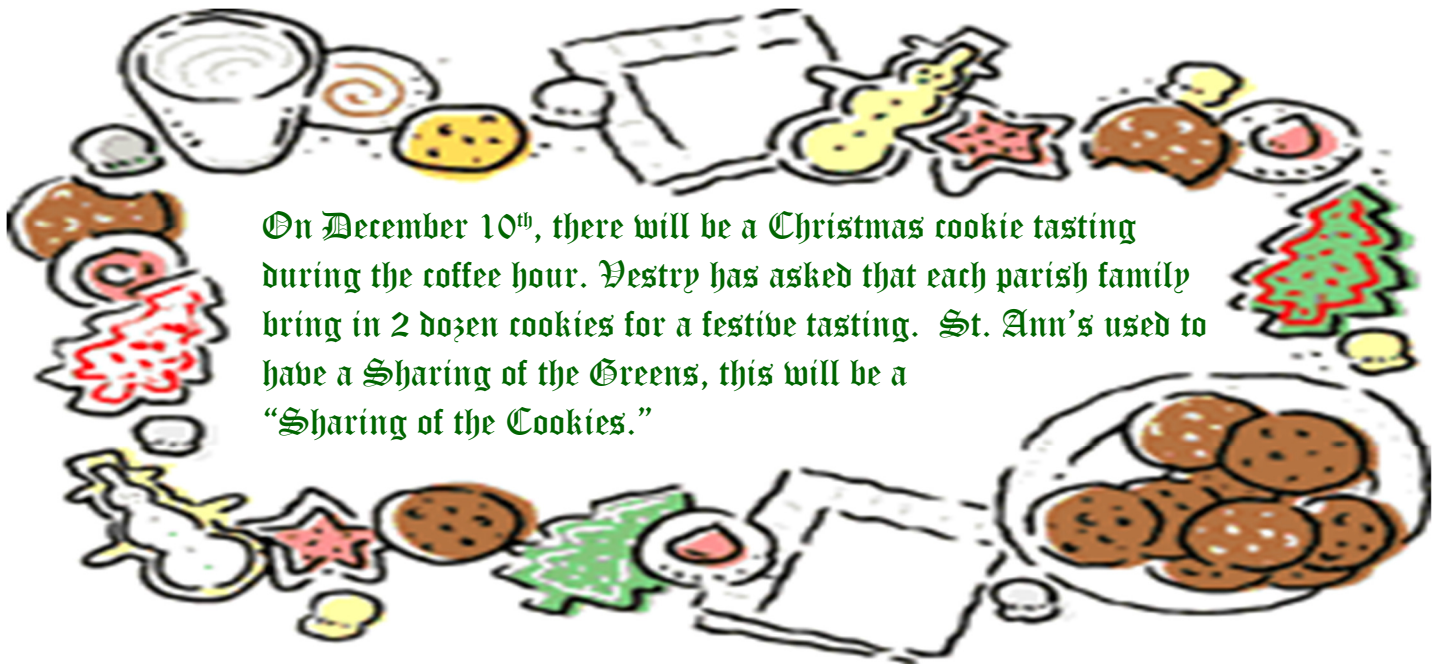
December Celebrations



12/1 Lexi Cutmore
12/4 Lois Irons
12/8 Woody Robins
12/16 Sandy Proffitt
12/18 Abigail Burch
12/20 Dan Vail



12/5 Dave & Nancy Setford

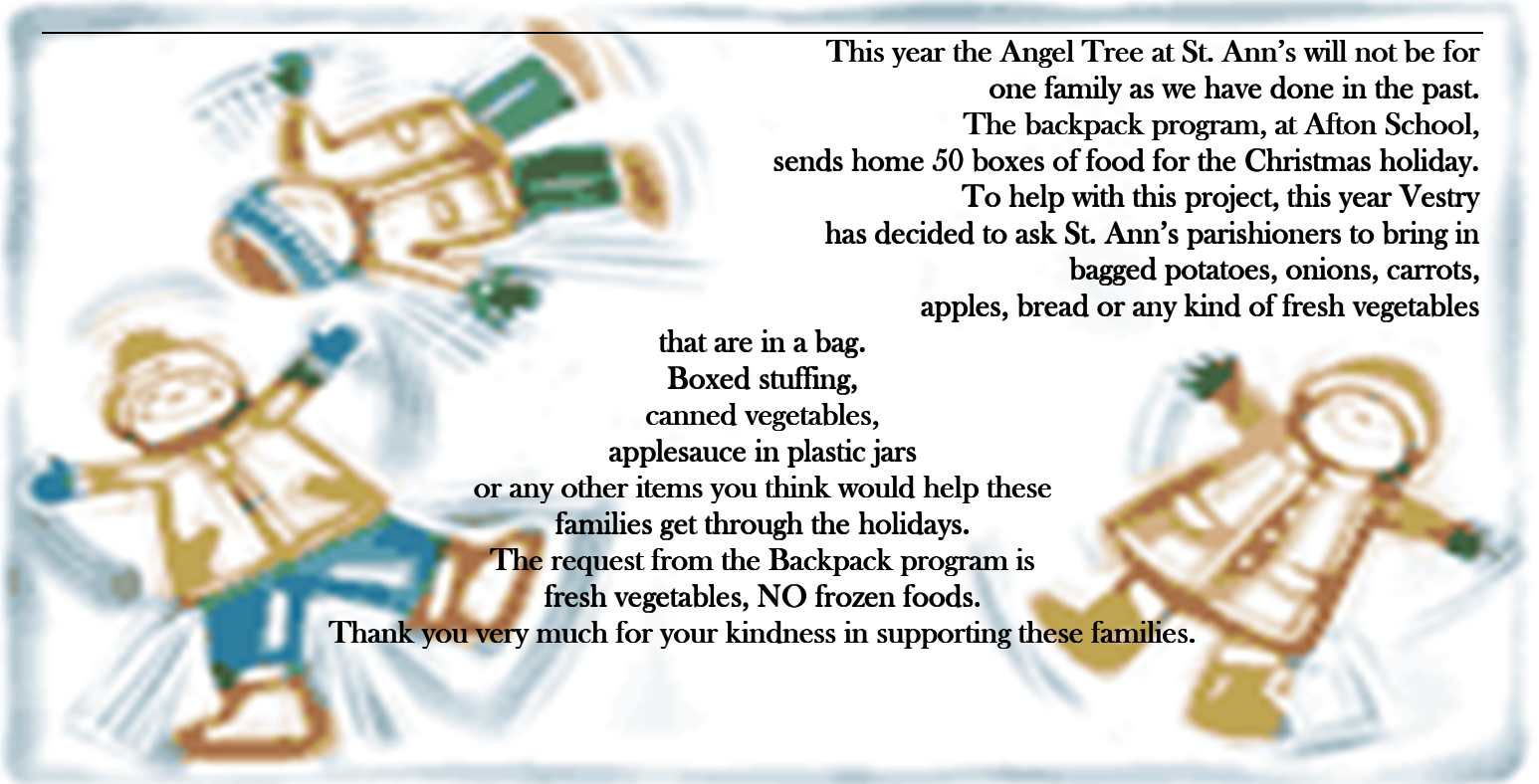


On December 10th, there will be a Christmas cookie tasting during the coffee hour. Vestry has asked that each parish family bring in 2 dozen cookies for a festive tasting. St. Ann's used to have a Sharing of the Greens, this will be a "Sharing of the Cookies."

The Vestry also thought this would be a good time to invite someone or someone who has not been to church in awhile with you this day.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to Duane Kane for installing the new LED floodlight on the LED sign to illuminate the church and Creche. Also, the fluorescent bulbs in the LED sign have been converted to LED's.



This year the Angel Tree at St. Ann's will not be for one family as we have done in the past. The backpack program, at Afton School, sends home 50 boxes of food for the Christmas holiday. To help with this project, this year Vestry has decided to ask St. Ann's parishioners to bring in bagged potatoes, onions, carrots, apples, bread or any kind of fresh vegetables

that are in a bag.
 Boxed stuffing,
 canned vegetables,
 applesauce in plastic jars
 or any other items you think would help these families get through the holidays.
 The request from the Backpack program is fresh vegetables, NO frozen foods.
 Thank you very much for your kindness in supporting these families.

If you desire a Poinsettia in memory of a Betty Vail or Tracey Tallmadge. The



loved one on Christmas Eve, please contact price will be \$7.00 each.



The Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at 4:30 p.m. December 24 at St. Ann's Church. The Reverend Geoffrey Doolittle will be conducting the service this year. Father David Hanselman will be attending his children's church play at Zion Greene at the approximate time of St. Ann's service

DECEMBER COFFEE HOUR

- 12/3 MARISSA**
- 12/10 COOKIES**
- 12/17 JUDY/MYA**
- 12/31 ??????**

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!

Service Schedule						
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Dec 3	HC	A. Wieber	D. Wieber	DV	DW	D. Vail/B. Vail
Dec 10	MP	D. Vail	T. Tallmadge	TV	----	T. Tallmadge
Dec 24	HC	Christmas Carol Readings		----	DW	D. Vail/B. Vail TorchBarrier A. Vail/G. Vail
Dec 31	MP	J. Rettberg	A. Wieber	MH	----	B. Vail
Jan 7	HC	C. Cimini	A. Cimini	AC	CC	A. Cimini/B. Vail
Church School						
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Dec 3	M. Harding			Dec 11	M. Kelly/J. Seacat	
Dec 10	T. Vail	D. Wieber	M. Harding	Dec 13	B. Vail/T. Tallmadge	
Dec 17	R. Felldin					
Dec 31		D. Wieber	M. Harding			
Lectionary (Year A)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Dec 3		Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37	
Dec 10		Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8	
Dec 17		Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Ps. 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28	
Dec 31		Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40	

Altar Duty for the month of December is Tracey Tallmadge 343-1301 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.

Advent Sunday is December 3rd.



These days we still sacrifice our kids to idols

(This was written by Rabbi Sephen M. Wylen for the Anglican Digest)

The Bible tells us that when King Solomon was old he went astray by erecting an altar to the Canaanite god Molech in the Valley of Hinnom. The idol of Molech was a furnace, with the god's mouth serving as the opening to feed the fire. The Bible tells us that parents worshipped Molech by throwing their children into the fire as a sacrifice to this hungry, demanding god. Molech worship was quite fashionable in those days.

Today, parents offer their children up to the ever-hungry and always demanding soccer god. Related sects worship the gods of football, basketball, gymnastics, and Little League baseball. These are jealous gods who demand no less than the fulltime devotion of their adherents. Any parent who does not bow and pray before the soccer god risks Eternal Derision and Being Out of the Loop (the modern equivalents of damnation and exile).

At one point, John Cardinal O'Connor criticized youth sports leagues for holding games on Sunday mornings, forcing families to choose between worship and athletics. The cardinal's critique reminded me of a meeting of my clergy association here in rural Pennsylvania. When the local youth sports association started holding football games on Sunday mornings, the Roman Catholic and Protestant clergy said, "We should have protested when they started having games on Saturday mornings. If we had defended the Jewish Sabbath then, we wouldn't have this problem now." The Christian clergy said this to one another with no prompting from me. The Jewish community had never even asked them to help us fight against Saturday morning games. The clergy were just acknowledging to themselves that all religions have to stand together in the face of irreligion. Religious devotees must join hands if they are to prevent an effective alternative to the secular rituals that have replaced traditional religion in American life, rituals such as youth sports, etc. When I ask parents not to pull their children out of Hebrew school 15 minutes early, the parents respond, "What can I do? The coach says that if the players aren't on the field by 6, they'll be benched!" Benched for acquiring a religious education!

I plead with the parents: "You are being subjected to religious oppression. This is America, the land of liberty, where we are supposed to be free to believe according to the dictates of our conscience. Who is the coach to interfere with the exercise of our rights as Americans?" The parents shrug their shoulders. Who can argue with a coach?

All right, I admit, I'm green with envy. Outside the Orthodox world, a rabbi in America can seldom corral this much authority to influence people's behavior. I would give a lot if people would respond to my sermons as if I were a Little League coach. Does it make me feel any better to discover that a cardinal has the same trouble being heard that I have? Not much!

My son's wrestling coach became my bicycling partner and good friend. As we rode and talked, I would hear from the coach's point of view. He complained about the kids' lack of dedication, their missing practices, their frequent failures to do their best. He needed more from his charges --- more time, more hard work, more devotion.

But this coach was a leader in the Presbyterian church, a man who attended church every Sunday. His wrestlers often got poor seedings in tournaments because he wouldn't bend the rules, even if other coaches did. He wanted his wrestlers to give their best in life, not just in wrestling -- to serve their God, their family, their community, and themselves, to the utmost of their ability. It's fine with me if my child becomes a pitcher or center/ forward. It's also fine with me if my child does not. With or without sports, as long as my child becomes a *mensch* -- a true human being -- I will be happy.

We grow in the image of the gods we worship. The soccer god frightens me.



St. Ann’s Prayer List for December 2017

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. Please note: Long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names for two months unless updated.

- Long Term**
 Carol
 Peter
 Joyce
 Mya
 Holly
 Cindy
 Lois
 Clifford
 Richard
 Bill
 Kevin

- Fr. David Hanselman
 Fr. Steven White
 Fr. Bruce MacDuffie
 Deacon Kay
 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
 Duane
 Marsey Evelyn Connie
 Marion Hailey Judy
 Dakota Eli

The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School. The Rector search for Emanuel, St. Andrew’s & St. Matthew’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, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love’s sake. Amen.



Vestry synopsis November 2017

- ❖ Outreach for November was designated to go to the Afton Community Chest.
- ❖ The kitchen counter replacement was put on hold for now.
- ❖ Clergy coverage during Fr. David's 2018 sabbatical will be Fr. Geoff Doolittle.
- ❖ Due to Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, there will Not be a morning service at St. Ann's. The Christmas Eve service will start at 4:30 p.m. with Fr. Doolittle officiating.
- ❖ Church security was discussed.
- ❖ We will not have the usual "Angel Tree" this year but rather will support the Afton School "backpack" program. This program currently serves some 50 families.
- ❖ December 10th. will be "Christmas Cookie Sunday and everyone is asked to bring 2 dozen homemade cookies and to ask someone to come to church with them.
- ❖ Several individuals have expressed an interest in participating in the Diocesan Learning Communities program. Vestry agreed to support them.
- ❖ The existing windows in the Parish Hall are in poor shape. It was approved to replace all of the windows and the back door. Work to be done by Madison Vinyl.
- ❖ The Parish Hall front door lockset needs replacement. Duane Kane has offered to take care of this.
- ❖ It was suggested that St. Ann's offer the use of the Parish Hall to the community for events such as showers, birthdays, etc. Some ground rules will be developed. This was approved.
- ❖ The purchase of some runners for the church was approved.
- ❖ The Diocesan assessment and pledge were reviewed and approved for 2018 for a total of \$5700.
- ❖ The treasurer's report shows us as still operating "in the black."



The Final Word

To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away.

Matthew 25:29

While secular values like self-promotion and competitive ladder climbing are not to be translated into spiritual life, the idea of investing resources for profit is one we are encouraged to adopt. In Jesus’ parable, three servants received money from their master. Each of us has received resources from God: time, ability and opportunity. Like the servants in the parable, we can choose – out of fear, laziness or disinterest – to bury our resources, or we can find a way to put our gifts to work to earn a profitable return. Whether we have “five bags of gold” or only one, God expects us to invest our lives boldly in his service. Have you identified the resources he has entrusted you with? How might you invest them for a maximum “Kingdom return”?

From TouchPoint Bible
New Living Translation

**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

