

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

New Year's Blessings to all!

And let's not forget that Christmas really isn't over until Epiphany!

What will this new year bring? Many folks I know are just relieved to see 2016 gone. For many, 2016 was a very painful year. Unfortunately, no doubt for many, 2017 will have its fair share of pain, too.

What do we do when people are going through painful times? The world tells us to stay away. Our faith tells us to seek to share that pain. Indeed, our faith tells us to do the same when people are going through joyful times.

Those of you who pay attention to what I say (and please let me stay blissfully unaware just how many of you that may or may not be!), will no doubt find what I just said familiar. I've said it before. One of my friends I lost in 2016, Fr Chuck Taylor, shared his wisdom with me and I have shared the same message freely with all of you - in a true Christian community, joy shared is doubled and sorrow shared is halved.

None of us knows for sure what this coming year holds. No doubt there will be sorrows and there will be joys. Our work is to go through it all together.

Each one of us is an important part of our communities, but no single one of us is the be-all, end-all of our communities. Only Jesus is the be-all, end-all.

And that, my friends, is another one of the amazing lessons to be learned from Easter. Jesus rose from the grave, returned to his friends, returned to his community. And in doing so, showed his friends and the world that his ministry truly demonstrated God's will for God's creation. Caring. Healing. Giving and Forgiving. Love.

And because he rose from the dead and returned to his friends, his Spirit continues to dwell in all who work to dedicate their lives to him and his mission. No one else has risen from the dead. So many friends and family have passed away. And yet the Spirit of Christ remains. And that Spirit has shown us that God is a caring and loving God. Even in the midst of sorrow. Even in the midst of joy. God cares for all, ALL, of God's creation. Amen.

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
Jan 1	HC	T.Tallmadge	C.Cimini	AC	CC	T.Tallmadge
Jan 8	MP	T.Tallmadge	R.Felldin	RF	---	T.Tallmadge
Jan 15	HC	A.Wieber	D.Wieber	MH	DW	Tracey/D.Wieber
Jan 22	MP	A.Wieber	J.Rettberg	TV	---	D.Wieber
Jan 29	MP	R.Sherman	D.Vail	AC	---	D.Vail
Feb 5	HC	J.Rettberg	B.Vail	BV	DW	B.Vail/D.Wieber
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Jan 8	T.Vail	D.Wieber	M.Harding	Jan 9	B.Vail/R.Sherman	
Jan 15	M.Kelly			Jan 11	M.Kelly/J.Rettberg	
Jan 22	M.Harding	B.Vail	R.Felldin			
Jan 29	R.Felldin	C.Cimini	A.Cimini			
Lectionary (Year A)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalms	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Jan 1	HC	Numbers 6:22-27	Psalms 8	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:15-21	
Jan 8	MP	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalms 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17	
Jan 15	HC	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalms 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42	
Jan 22	MP	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalms 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23	
Jan 29	MP	Micah 6:1-8	Psalms 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12	
Feb 5	HC	Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)	Psalms 112:1-9 (10)	1 Corinthians 1:1-16	Matthew 5:13-20	

On Sunday, January 15, St. Ann's welcomes the Rev. Jim Jones who will conduct Holy Eucharist.

Altar Duty for the month of January is Melrose Kelly 639-1090 and Carol Cimini 693-2907. 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 Robin Felldin for the Christmas items that she provided for the children. She has done this for a number of years and it is appreciated.



January Coffee Hour Sign Ups

- Jan. 8 - Duane Kane
- Jan. 15 - Melrose Kelly
- Jan. 22 - Betty and Tom Vail
- Jan. 29 - Dan and Kerri Vail

Thank You !!

To everyone who supported our Parish during 2016 and returned “intention” cards for 2017. If you have not returned a card and would like to do so, there is still time. Your vestry thanks everyone for their generous financial support.

Safe Church Training on February 5th

Kay Drebert and Pastor Becky will do Safe Church Training on February 5th. The time and place will be announced in church.

St. Ann's Prayer List for January 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.

<p><u>Long Term</u></p> <p>Carol Peter Joyce Mya Holly Cindy Lois Clifford Richard Dakota Derek Annika Declan Sasha Bob Sharon Bill & Linda Fr. David Hanselman Fr. Bruce MacDuffie Deacon Kay</p>	<p>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</p> <p><u>Short Term</u></p> <p><u>Short Term</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Pastor Sue</td> <td>Charles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cheryl</td> <td>Sara G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marsey</td> <td>Lee MacDuffie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marion</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kathleen</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bonnie</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rev. Don Matthews</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Pastor Sue	Charles	Cheryl	Sara G	Marsey	Lee MacDuffie	Marion		Kathleen		Bonnie		Rev. Don Matthews	
Pastor Sue	Charles														
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Rev. Don Matthews															

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.*

CELEBRATIONS IN JANUARY



Birthdays

4 Briella Harding
 13 Peter Vail
 15 Tyler Wright
 20 Ron Sherman
 27 Cindy Sherman



Anniversaries

None

Please send your birthday/anniversary dates to me @ cttallmadg@aol.com or advise me at church.



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Vestry highlights December 18, 2016

1. Christmas Eve offering will be sent to the General Theological Seminary, which has been our custom for many years. Also, for outreach, a donation will be sent to the Binghamton Rescue Mission.
2. It was decided to look into a projector for videos for possible use in Sunday School and during worship services.
3. The Morning Prayer service will be reviewed with individuals who conduct the Morning Prayer services to determine if there are changes that should be considered.
4. The new altar hangings have been received. They will be dedicated shortly and the old hangings will be given to another Church.

5. Fr. David noted that he will be on vacation on January 15 and February 19th. The Rev. Jim Jones will be with us on January 15th. The February date is not covered at this time.
6. Confirmation classes will start in February. Fr. David noted that there is not a specific age requirement but that it is based on maturity. The question that is asked is: “Do you want to be a part of the Episcopal Church?”
7. Our old printer has been donated to the Afton Fire District.
8. Updated mileage rates have been issued by the IRS.
9. Our pledge and assessment amounts have been sent to the Diocese.

HOW TO RAISE CHILDREN TO BE KIND

The following article on “Christian formation for children” recently ran in a major newspaper:

The five points are a “no-brainer” for any community of faith interested in young families and children:

1. **Make caring for others a priority.** Happiness and success do not trump concern for others.
2. **Provide opportunities for children to practice caring and gratitude.** Learning caring and gratitude is like learning any new skill. It takes regular practice.
3. **Expand the circle of concern.** Help children learn to care about people outside of their normal circle of friends or family—such as people in different countries or of a different economic class.
4. **Be a strong moral role model and mentor.** Do some kind of community service regularly with your child. Make it a priority.
5. **Guide children in managing destructive feelings.** Teach basic breathing skills like long, deep breaths through the nose, slowly exhale through the nose, count to five and repeat until calm.

Some thoughts for adults on how to Stop Bullying on the Spot



When adults respond quickly and consistently to bullying behavior they send the message that it is not acceptable. Research shows this can stop bullying behavior over time. There are simple steps adults can take to stop bullying on the spot and keep kids safe.

Do:

- Intervene immediately. It is ok to get another adult to help.
- Separate the kids involved.
- Make sure everyone is safe.
- Meet any immediate medical or mental health needs.
- Stay calm. Reassure the kids involved, including bystanders.
- Model respectful behavior when you intervene.

Avoid these common mistakes:

- Don't ignore it. Don't think kids can work it out without adult help.
- Don't immediately try to sort out the facts.
- Don't force other kids to say publicly what they saw.
- Don't question the children involved in front of other kids.
- Don't talk to the kids involved together, only separately.
- Don't make the kids involved apologize or patch up relations on the spot.

[Get police help or medical attention](#) immediately if:

- A weapon is involved.
- There are threats of serious physical injury.
- There are threats of hate-motivated violence, such as racism or homophobia.
- There is serious bodily harm.
- There is sexual abuse.
- Anyone is accused of an illegal act, such as robbery or extortion—using force to get money, property, or services.

From the Joyful Noiseletter

“Do not resent growing old; Many are denied the privilege.”

“Today give a stranger one of your smiles. It might be the only sunshine they see all day.”

“There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child.”

“What do you say to a football player dressed in a three-piece suit?” “Will the defendant please rise.”

The Final Word 

This is a reprise of a commentary that was written for the Jan. 2006 issue. (It seems appropriate to republish it.)

Epiphany - 1. A feast celebrated Jan. 6th, commemorating the coming of the Magi as being the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles..
manifestation—an act of being evident to the senses, especially to the sight.

As Christians we believe that God became manifest in the person of Jesus Christ. That is, God became visible to people by taking the form of Jesus Christ, calling himself “the Light of the World.” And in the beginning of his Gospel, John says, “The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.”

Think about light. It can’t be seen unless it is reflected off something, be it a particle of dust or an object like the moon. Furthermore, in the absence of light, we are unable to see and are likely to stumble around, bumping into things and possibly injuring ourselves..

Isn’t God much like that? We can see Him only when His love is reflected by others. Likewise, it is only when we live our lives based on God that others will see God in and through us. Without God, we stumble through our lives, running into things and often getting hurt.

With Jesus, the Light of the World, we are able to see, and when we see, we don’t get hurt as much! 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

