

## 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*

Greetings 2018!

2017 saw many heartbreaking deaths at St Paul's and Zion. Lord, have mercy, that 2018 we don't face the kinds of losses we endured in 2017. Since love never ends, we are fully confident that our loved ones remain in communion with us, and we are all continually united with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It's their presence and personalities that we miss so much.

As I say at the beginning of every Sunday service: This is a day that the Lord has made, so let us rejoice and be glad in it. The same applies to the week, month and year we've been given.

This year I'm provided with a very special blessing - sabbatical! As per my Letter of Agreement, I was supposed to have taken sabbatical last year. But because our district lacked enough priestly coverage, my sabbatical was postponed until this year. For 3 months, from 1 May to 21 July, I will focus on prayer, research and renewal. If during that time, I'm needed for anything, first please contact the wardens and they will get ahold of me.

Before that, however, we've got parish annual meetings, Lent and Easter.

Lent this year begins early - Valentine's Day is also Ash Wednesday. Happy coincident? Or odd pairing? You decide!

So, our Lenten program begins early, too. This year I'd like to go back to our usual Wednesday night soup, sandwich and study at St Ann's. And I'm a bit excited about this year's program - more excited than usual, I guess! This year, we will focus on C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*. I know of no other book which captures so perfectly just how subtle, ingenious and insidious Satan seeks to capture hearts and drive people away from God. And in a world as complicated and sophisticated as ours, I think it's a critically important conversation to have.

And so, 2018 has some exciting things in store for us. May God grant us the grace to fully live into the many blessings we're offered every day.



### 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 7               | HC        | C.Cimini                | A.Cimini             | AC                    | CC                 | A.Cimini/B.Vail |
| Jan 14              | MP        | A.Wieber                | R.Felldin            | RF                    | ----               | D.Wieber        |
| Jan 21              | HC        | A.Wieber                | D.Wieber             | MH                    | DW                 | B.Vail/D.Wieber |
| Jan 28              | MP        | R.Felldin               | J.Rettberg           | RF                    | ----               | T.Tallmadge     |
| Feb 4               | HC        | C.Cimini                | A.Cimini             | AC                    | CC                 | A.Cimini/B.Vail |
| Church School       |           | Morning Prayer          |                      | Food Pantry           |                    |                 |
| Jan 7               | K. Vail   |                         |                      | Jan 8                 | B.Vail/T.Tallmadge |                 |
| Jan 14              | B. Vail   | T.Tallmadge             | R.Felldin            | Jan 10                | J.Rettberg/M.Kelly |                 |
| Jan 21              | M.Harding |                         |                      |                       |                    |                 |
| Jan 28              | R.Felldin | B.Vail                  | D.Vail               |                       |                    |                 |
| Lectionary (Year A) |           |                         |                      |                       |                    |                 |
| Date                | Service   | OT Reading              | Psalm                | Epistle Reading       | Gospel Reading     |                 |
| Jan 7               |           | Genesis 1:1-5           | Psalm 29             | Acts 19:1-7           | Mark 1:4-11        |                 |
| Jan 14              |           | 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) | Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 | 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 | John 1:43-51       |                 |
| Jan 21              |           | Jonah 3:1-5, 10         | Psalm 62:6-14        | 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 | Mark 1:14-20       |                 |
| Jan 28              |           | Deuteronomy 18:15-20    | Psalm 111            | 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  | Mark 1:21-28       |                 |
| Feb 4               |           | Isaiah 40:21-31         | Psalm 147:1-12, 21c  | 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 | Mark 1:29-39       |                 |

**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.



**St. Ann’s Prayer List for January 2018**

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.**

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| <b><u>Short Term</u></b> |         |
| Duane                    | Connie  |
| Marsey                   | Eli     |
| Marion                   |         |
| Dakota                   |         |
| Evelyn                   |         |
| Hailey                   |         |
| Judy                     | Russell |
| <b><u>Long Term</u></b>  |         |
| Carol                    |         |
| Peter                    |         |
| Joyce                    |         |
| Mya                      |         |
| Holly                    |         |
| Cindy                    |         |
| Lois                     |         |
| Clifford                 |         |
| Richard                  |         |
| Bill                     |         |
| Kevin                    |         |

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b><u>Long Term</u></b>         |
| 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              |

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 Highlights December 2017

- ❖ For outreach, was voted to send our December contribution to the Episcopal Divinity School. Also, to send the loose plate offering, plus an additional \$100 to the General Theological Seminary.
- ❖ Discussed new “runners” for the Church floor. Purchase approved and several members will work together to select the color and length.
- ❖ The New York State Police offer an “active shooter” program. Woodie has contacted a Brian Weldon, with the State Police, who presents this program. It was decided to ask him to do his presentation on January 21<sup>st</sup> and to send an invitation to the other Churches in the community and anyone else who would like to attend. Coffee and donuts to be provided.
- ❖ Discussed sending a portion of the Todd “tithes” to the Episcopal School in Palestine. Fr. David to check into them.
- ❖ Madison Vinyl expects to start on the Parish Hall windows in late January.
- ❖ Need to encourage parishioners to bring in items for the food pantry basket.
- ❖ Fr. David noted that he has engaged Fr. Geoffrey Doolittle to conduct the Christmas Eve service and also to cover during his sabbatical next year.
- ❖ St. Ann’s membership in the Afton Chamber of Commerce was approved to be renewed.
- ❖ Treasurer’s report showed that we are operating “in the black.” Thanks be to God.
- ❖ After Fr. David left, Christmas gifts for Fr. David, Deacon Kay, sexton and grounds keeper were reviewed and approved.



### THANK YOU TO:

Robin Felldin for the Children’s Christmas gifts.  
 Duane Kane for installing the new parish hall door handle.  
 St. Ann’s parishioners who donated food for the Backpack program at the Afton School.  
 Ron Sherman for installing the furnace in the Parish Hall basement and for mowing the lawn this past year.  
 To parishioners who provided goodies for coffee hour.



**A report on the stewardship effort**

As of December 21, 2017, St. Ann's has received "intention" cards or just "intentions," for the financial support of the parish totaling \$26,276. This compares to \$25,680 at this time last year. 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.

Also, please note that offering envelopes are available on top of the mail slots in the Parish Hall. If you take a set, please put down your name and the number of the envelopes.

The Lord loves a cheerful giver.

Thank you to all for your support of our Parish!!!



**Don't Miss This**

This notice is being sent to all local Churches and applies to St. Ann's parishioners also.

**"Active Shooter" presentation**

St. Ann's Episcopal Church will host an "Active Shooter" presentation by Brian Weldon of the New York State Police at the Parish Hall on January 21<sup>st</sup>. starting at 10:30 A.M. This touches on security issues for any gathering.

We regret that this conflicts with most worship services, but this was the only time the program was available. This is a timely topic, in view of the recent Church shooting, and we are told that Brian does an excellent presentation. We encourage you to consider sending a representative(s) from your Church.

Coffee and donuts will be available.

Reservations are not required.

Everyone is welcome.



## A Place to Stand

**The Rev. Dr. Georg Retzlaff**

Archimedes, the great mathematician and inventor, is believed to have said, “Give me a place to stand, and I will move the earth.” He, the founder of theoretical mechanics, was talking about the law of the lever, the concept of gravity: in order to move anything, one has to stand some-where, at a precise location, to exercise maximum leverage. That was in the third century BC.

What is true in mechanics seems to be increasingly doubtful in the public arena. Once upon a time, people had all the answers; then the answers were subjected to scrutiny, and were found wanting. Then, with Einstein, began the insight that all answers are relative: they depend on the observer (his age, gender, class). Recently even the questions have been exposed as being conditioned by who we are. If there are so many possible answers to life’s questions – if even the questions cannot be shared with everyone – what’s the use of thinking at all? An article in The Washington Post once called the 1990s the decade of “whatever”, a time of indifference, of shrugging one’s shoulders, of not giving a whit about either questions or answers to anything. Pollsters began to seem alarmed about the ever-growing number of “undecided,” “don’t know,” and “no opinion” replies to their questions. Taking a stand to move things, that’s almost frowned upon, a kind of synonym of “opinionated” or “inflexible” or “closed-minded.” Taking a stand, in a fast-moving world – which, in the blink of an eye, discards the “truths” of yesterday – seems a waste of time to many. Better to keep an open mind, settle nothing, float eternally, come down on no side. Politicians, pedagogues, and preachers alike find that is often the safest route to travel.

By embracing all positions, we embrace none; by listening to everyone, we listen to no-body; by relativizing all questions and answers, we stop asking altogether.

Is there really no place to stand on? Are there neither questions nor answers we can use as a platform from which to move the world? I would suggest that you explore a certain long-neglected document found in the Book of Common Prayer (pp. 867-876): the Thirty-Nine Articles. Although they are more important in the Church of England, they still form the bedrock upon which the Episcopal Church is resting. They attempt to single out 39 issues which are of supreme importance for anyone professing to follow Christ. Some of the answers are classic and definitive; others are so vague as to allow multiple interpretations; others again are clearly dated. But they give us a place to start and move the world; they are markers in unmarked territory, guideposts on our spiritual journey.

**ASH WEDNESDAY will be February 14<sup>th</sup> this year. Service times will be announced. St. Ann’s will be returning to Lenten Bible Study series with various church members providing sandwiches or soup will begin on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 6:00p.m. Please refer to Father David’s letter as to the topic of the Lenten program.**



# Words to start the New Year



Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God. God loves you; He always has and always will.

- via George Goldtrap  
Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL



"Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify, simplify."

- Thoreau

"Let your face show your faith - smile!"  
- Author unknown



"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."  
- Proverbs 15:1



"Health is wealth."

- Jim Reed



"It's better to walk alone than with a crowd going in the wrong direction."

- Diane Grant



"Endeavor to so live that when you die even the undertaker will be sorry."

-Mark Twain



"Therefore I praised joy, because there is nothing better for mortals under the sun than to eat and to drink and to be joyful; this will accompany them in their toil through the limited days of life God gives them under the sun."

- Eccl. 8:15  
via Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, TOR  
Franciscan University of Steubenville  
Steubenville, OH



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



None recorded. Please advise if you have an Anniversary in January

[cttallmadg@aol.com](mailto:cttallmadg@aol.com)

## 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

