

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.stannsafortny.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

The Beautiful Art of Prayer

There is a vast difference between saying prayers and praying.

– Anonymous



When I was a young child, my understanding of prayer was limited to the memorized prayers we would recite in church and the specific meal time prayer we would say before dinner. I don't recall paying much attention to the meaning behind the prayers we recited. However, I did know that the prayers were important and should be recited with the utmost respect for God, our Creator. My simplistic view of prayer was focused solely on reciting prayers to God as a means to an end, with no real purpose or comprehension of what I was doing. I basically prayed because I was expected to and knew I should.

It wasn't until I was expecting our first child that my understanding of prayer expanded and deepened. I was blessed to meet a fellow educator at the school where I had been teaching,

who opened my eyes and heart to the true meaning of prayer. She invited me to join her in a Bible study and I was thrilled to accept her invitation. Our friendship flourished as we studied various books of the Bible together. More importantly, she taught me the beautiful art of prayer, which to this day I am so thankful for.

Prayer is not merely a one-sided recitation of memorized passages. It is meant to be communication with our amazing Creator. What an honor and privilege that we can have access to our Almighty God through prayer! He wants to hear from us on a daily basis and He in turn speaks to us, if we quiet ourselves enough to listen to His voice.

Please don't misunderstand me...the prayers we recite in church are of utmost importance for us to pray, for they are rich with Scripture and they are our love letters to God. However, if we are merely reciting them unconsciously and not focusing on the depth of their meaning, we miss out on the miraculous gift of communion with God.

"The Lord's Prayer" (Matthew 6:9-13) is actually Jesus's model to us for prayer: We should praise God, pray for His work in the world, pray for our daily needs/struggles and pray for forgiveness (for ourselves and others). An acronym that helps keep myself and my children focused when praying in this manner is **PRAY!**

P – Praising God and thanking him for His blessings and work in our lives.

R – Repentance; admitting our sins and asking for forgiveness.

A – Asking God for help for ourselves and others.

Y – Yielding to God's will; asking God to reveal His plan for our lives; this is where we take time to be still and listen for God's guidance

We can bring amazing power to our prayers if we also include Scripture within our personal prayers. My friend shared with me during our Bible study time that praying God's Word is praying God's Will. It doesn't get more powerful than that!

As it states in the Bible, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18) In other words, our lives should be a prayer dedicated to God. Prayers are not just meant for church and the dinner table. If we are conscious of praising God, thanking God and keeping in constant communion with Him throughout our day, we will experience His immeasurable joy and peace!

"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 29:12-14)

God's joy and peace be with you always!

KLV

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
July 1	HC	C.Cimini	J.Rettberg	AC	JR	A.Cimini/B.Vail
July 8	MP	P.Tucker	C.Tarvin	BV	----	M.Boston
July 15	HC	A.Wieber	D.Wieber	AC	CC	A.Cimini/D.Wieber
July 22	MP	J.Rettberg	D.Wieber	BV	----	D.Wieber
July 29	MP	J.Rettberg	C.Tarvin	TV	----	A.Vail
Aug 5	HC	C.Tarvin	B.Vail	TV	JR	B.Vail/M.Boston
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
		July 8	B.Vail/M.Boston	July 9	Pat & Al Tucker	
		July 22	C & A. Cimini	July 11	J.Rettberg & J.Seacat	
		July 29	T.Vail/D.Vail			
Lectionary (Year B)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
July 1		2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27	Psalm 130	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43	
July 8		2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10	Psalm 48	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13	
July 15		2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19	Psalm 24	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29	
July 22		2 Samuel 7:1-14a	Ps. 89:20-37	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	
July 29		2 Samuel 11:1-15	Psalm 14	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21	
Aug 5		2 nd Sam. 11:26-12:13a	Psalm 51:1-13	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 24-35	

Altar Duty for the month of July is Judy Rettberg 208-4023. 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.



VESTRY MEETING will be held on Sunday, July 15, 2018

CELEBRATIONS IN JULY



7/7 LOGAN TALLMADGE
 7/11 MADO CIMINI
 7/12 SONJA & NOAH HANSELMAN
 7/17 GARRETT VAIL & CAROL VAIL
 7/23 MARISSA HARDING
 7/28 DAVID HANSELMAN
 7/29 GINA GIURASTANTE

Please email me below if you want your dates added.

cttallmadg@aol.com

. Excerpt from Forward Through the Years

Galatians 6:14. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ by which the Lord has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

There is a beloved hymn that begins, "When I survey the wonderous cross." The word "survey" means "to look at." There is great value in simply looking at a cross or crucifix. We hear much about visual education these days. The church has used symbolism for generations. The cross is one of the most effective kinds of visual education.

For Christians the cross is a very powerful symbol. Simply to look at it for five minutes can be of great help. It helps fix our minds on what Christ did for us. It helps get our minds off ourselves and centered on our Lord. As we look at the cross, we will probably think about the great sacrifice of himself that Christ made for us. We will be deeply grateful for this. We may reflect that we are called upon to take up our cross and follow him. Our burdens become lighter as we look at the cross. The cross is a powerful symbol of a mighty fact. Look at it, and see what God says to you as you gaze. (1975)



St. Ann's Prayer List for July 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.

- Short Term
- Duane
 - Raevin
 - Henry
 - Marion
 - Dawn
 - Ben Electa
 - John
 - Bobbi
 - Eli
 - Noah
 - Bill
 - Pat
 - Chuck

- Long Term
- Fr. David Hanselman
 - Fr. Steven White
 - Fr. Bruce MacDuffie
 - Deacon Kay
 - Pastor Becky
 - Fr. Geoff Doolittle
 - 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
 - Hailey
 - Peter
 - Mya
 - Cindy
 - Clifford
 - Bill
 - Dakota
 - Carol
 - Joyce
 - Holly
 - Lois
 - Richard
 - Kevin



The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School. 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.*



Vestry meeting synopsis
June 17, 2018

- Carol Cimini gave a report on the Learning Communities Initiative meetings and asked vestry members to think about ways in which we might engage our local community.
- Outreach for June was discussed. It was decided to send our monthly outreach contribution to the drug/opiate abuse project that is planned in Bainbridge, Truth Phar, Inc. Fr. Geoff had additional information from their website and Deacon Kay had supported this initiative.
- Church School was discussed. We would like to come up with an alternate way to teach, using the type of media that children are comfortable with in these “electronic” times. We have the names of several individuals suggested by the Diocese, who could be used as resource people for this purpose. After discussion, it was decided to purchase a large screen “smart” TV and a new CD player to be used for Church school classes, cost not to exceed \$1000.
- Program was received from Deacon Kay for the Afton School baccalaureate service (which was ultimately attended by over 100 people.)
- Received thank you letters from: Diocese of Jerusalem, Oxford Vets Home and Afton Glenwood Cemetery Association for our contributions.
- Afton Arts and Crafts day will be in August. Local organizations are asked to think about how they might participate. It was suggested that we might consider giving out free ice cream.
- Treasurer’s report indicated that we are still “in the black.” Treasurer stated that he has signed up for a Church Insurance Company plan that will give us a small discount on our physical damage insurance.

After ‘The Greatest Generation,’....This!?
Written by Cal Samra, Editor, The Joyful Noiseletter

I must be getting old (I am old, just turned 87). I can remember a time when men gave up their seats to women on buses and streetcars, doffed their hats to women as they passed, opened doors for women, came to their defense when a bully assaulted or took liberties with them, a time when a boy never kissed a girl on the first date, a time when men respected women.

That was back in the Great Depression years of the 1930’s and World War II years of the 1940’s when most everyone was poor, but the crime rate and the murder rate were low and women and children could walk the streets night and day without fear of attack. A time when kids could roam neighborhoods without fear. A time when we young people could hitchhike everywhere without fear of being assaulted. A time when the divorce rate was down, sharply, and almost all the kids in the neighborhood came home to a father and mother. A time when kids played catch and games with their Dad and Mom in their front yards. (You rarely see that anymore.) A time when families ate meals together around a dining room table—not fast foods.

Whatever the hardships of those days, it was a time when neighbors helped out each other and gathered on your front porch, sipped lemonade, told jokes and stories, and sang into the summer night. Many of our town’s parents were immigrants who became proud Americans.

There were no crazed gunmen walking into schools, churches, businesses, malls, and musical events with assault rifles and shooting every innocent bystander in sight. Today the vast majority of the killings in America are not done by foreign terrorists, but, sadly, by Americans killing other Americans. It makes one wonder sometimes whether America is on the edge of anarchy in a society where the police departments are out-gunned and they are having trouble attracting officer candidates.

It was a time when people were frugal and did not live on credit card debt, a time when youngsters were not encouraged to drive themselves deeply into debt for a college degree. It was a time when it was considered unethical for lawyers, doctors, and pharmaceutical companies to advertise directly to the public.

Some of my male relatives were among “The Greatest Generation”—many of them the sons and daughters of naturalized immigrants—who vanquished the Nazi and Japanese empires in WW II. It was far from a perfect society, but “The Greatest Generation” were, with few exceptions, honorable men who showed great respect for their wives and other women. Hard times had a certain civility.

A Parade of Sleazy Males:

Today, at the cusp of American prosperity, we are witnessing a parade of sleazy famous male characters – Republicans and Democrats, conservative and liberal politicians, TV anchormen, talk show hosts and executives, actors and producers, doctors, et al, being accused of numerous acts of sexually harassing, groping, and abusing women. The sheer volume of these accusations is mindboggling.

The Catholic Church has been embarrassed by the scandal of a tiny minority of pedophile priests who preyed on young parishioners.

There have always been men who used their power and wealth to harass and abuse women -- and boys. A female editor observed that there also have always been some ambitious women willing to go to work dressed erotically and to flirt with such men to further their careers. Companies would be wise to institute policies to create safer working environments to curb sexual harassment of employees. But predators are not easily discouraged. The problem is much more pervasive in our society.

The Days of Due Process:

As a former Associated Press reporter, and a reporter for Michigan and New Jersey newspapers, I recall that in the old days our editors would not allow us to report accusations against anyone unless they were arrested and charged, or arraigned and put on trial.

Our editors warned their reporters to keep their opinions to themselves in their stories, and you could get fired for slanting a story with a choice adjective or adverb. We were expected to cover all sides of a story. (“Just the facts Ma’am.”) *Dragnet*

Joyful Noiseletter Associate Editor

Rev. Paul Lintern was a newspaper editor in the 1970’s, before he became a Lutheran pastor. “In my mind,” he says, “the key problem today is that journalists have so frequently abdicated their responsibility to confirm, seek multiple sources, and strive to print the truth they have uncovered with legwork – not repeat the gossip they have lazily gathered from social media ‘sources’ who are political operatives for whoever wants to destroy someone else. The immediacy of social media today and the pressure to ‘put the news out there before someone else does’ means dismissing verification of the facts.”

We are not getting hard, factual news. We are getting people’s *opinions* of the news, liberal or conservative, which erodes public credibility. The news media and the politicians have made the same mistake: they divide people into conservatives and liberals when in fact most people are liberal on some issues and conservative on other issues, and their opinions vary according to the issue.

A Tsunami of Gossip:

What we have here is a tsunami of gossip. How things have changed, including journalism, in our society! But can we expect anything else but anarchy in a sex-and-drug obsessed society fueled by Freudian psychiatrists, Hollywood, TV, Madison Avenue commercials, the social media, and wide-spread pornography? Hollywood and TV have prospered on sex and adultery themes for decades. And now our society is paying the piper.

So what else has changed in the last 50 to 60 years? Our fathers and mothers – Protestant, Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Jews – by and large were church and temple-going people who taught their children spiritual values and to be respectful of women and all human beings. It should be clear by now that both liberal and conservative politicians have been caught up in these scandals. So the problem and the solution are not political. And not economic. And not psychological. The mental health establishment doesn’t have a clue as to how to stem the tide of madness in our society.

It may not be popular to suggest that the problem that has led us into this state of near-anarchy is a spiritual problem that requires a spiritual response. It’s all about how people treat one another.

But nobody, including the news media, seems eager to entertain the possibility that this near-anarchy in America is the result of the decline of religion, church-going, and churches, where self-discipline and civility were taught.

The Final Word



That night Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to be his dinner guests, along with his with his fellow tax collectors and other notorious sinners. (There were many people of this kind among the crowds that followed Jesus.) But when some of the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with people like that, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with such scum??”

When Jesus heard this, he told them, “Heathy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call sinners, not those who think they are already good enough.”

Acts 2:15-17

As a tax collector Levi (Matthew) was considered to be a cheat and a traitor to his own people. Yet Jesus looked at his future instead of his past, and at his heart rather than at his present reputation. Levi responded to Jesus’ call and was transformed from Levi the disreputable tax collector, into Matthew the disciple of Christ. Regardless of your reputation, Christ can move you beyond it to become what God meant for you to be. What does God mean for you to be? Are you responding to Jesus’ transforming call? How does it show in your life?

From The Touchpoint Bible

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

