

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



Hey folks! I hope this finds you all doing well. Well, it's still the height of summer and in the interest of honoring what for many is a summertime tradition, I think this month I'll just share with you some easy, light reading. Every day I read the daily entry in Joan Chittister's "The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century" and over the past several days the entries have had simple, but deeply spiritual stories from ancient traditions. They've sort of stuck in my mind and I'd like to share them with you:

"To a group of Sufi disciples whose hearts were set on a pilgrimage, the elder said, 'Take this bitter gourd along. Make sure you dip it into all the holy rivers and bring it into all the holy shrines.' When the disciples returned, the bitter gourd was cooked and served. 'Strange,' said the elder slyly after they had tasted it, 'the holy water and the shrines failed to sweeten it.'"

"An ancient people tell us that when the moment of a great teacher's death was near, the disciples said, 'What is it we will see when you are gone?' And the master said, 'All I did was sit on the river bank handing out river water. After I am gone, I trust you will notice the water.'"

"The Navahos wrote, 'We felt like talking to the ground, we loved it so.' Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, 'The earth laughs in flowers.' Benedict of Nursia wrote, say 'Alleluia' always, no matter the time of day, no matter the season of life." These have seemed to me to be beautiful things to ponder. I hope you agree or you find some other simple, short verse that causes you to pause and that refreshes you.

Blessing upon blessing be with you today and always!

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
Aug 4	HC	J. Rettberg	J. Rettberg	BV	JR	B.Vail
Aug 11	MP	J. Rettberg	J. Rettberg	DV	----	D.Vail
Aug 18	HC	P. Tucker	P. Tucker	AC	DW	B.Vail/D.Wieber
Aug 25	MP	B. Vail	B. Vail	AC	----	A.Vail
Sept 1	HC	C.Tarvin	C.Tarvin	TV	JR	B.Vail
Church School						
		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
		Aug 11	M.Harding D. Weiber	Aug 12	Pat & Al Tucker	
		Aug 25	D.Vail B. Vail	Aug 14	Kerri Vail & Kids	
Lectionary (Year C)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Aug 4		Hosea 11:1-11	Psalm 107:1-9, 43	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21	
Aug 11		Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40	
Aug 18		Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56	
Aug 25		Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17	
Sept 1		Jeremiah 2:4-13	Psalm 81:1, 10-16	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14	



Altar Duty for the month of August, Betty Vail (639-1201) and Grace Affuso (639-2961). If you are giving flowers in memory of 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.

LAY READERS:

We are experimenting with a change for Lay Readers. Starting in September with the service schedule, the same person who signs up to read will read both the Old Testament and Epistle readings. This should make it easier to fill the reading slots.

St. Ann's Prayer List for August 2019

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

Raevin
 Aggie
 Pauline
 Adelaide
 Linda
 Robert
 Jeannette
 Sarah
 Billy
 Karen

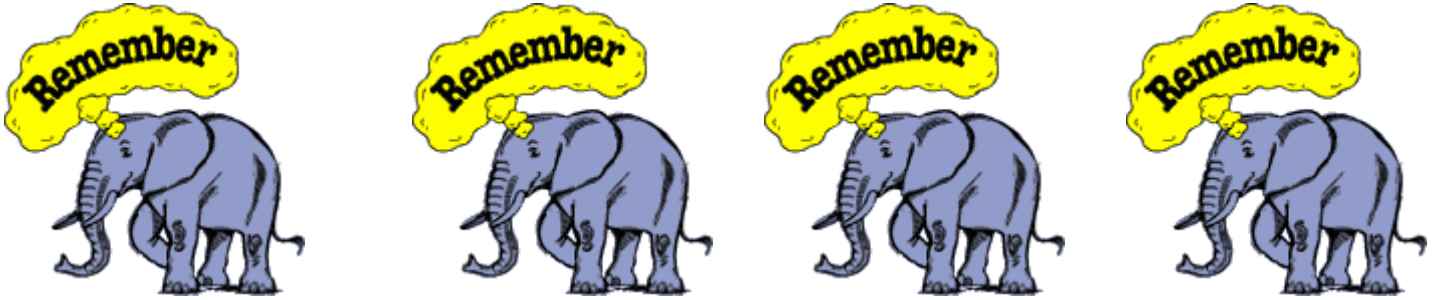
Long Term

Fr. David Hanselman
 Fr. Steven White
 Deacon Kay
 Pastor Becky
 Rev. Elizabeth Gillett
 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
 Carol Pete
 Joyce Mya
 Holly Cindy
 Lois Hailey
 Clifford Richard
 Bill Kevin
 Dakota Nate
 Marion Amaya
 Bonnie



The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School. The Learning Communities Initiative of the Diocese. 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.

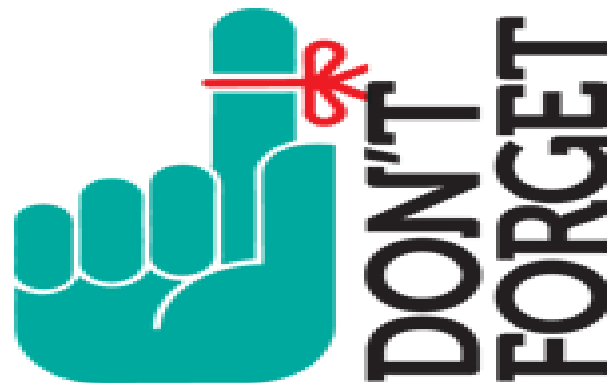


St. Ann's will welcome The Reverends Ralph and Liz Groskoph to conduct Holy Eucharist on August 4 and August 18. Father David Hanselman will be on vacation those days. St. Ann's appreciates the support of the Groskophs and are thanked very much for their commitment to our church community.

On **August 11th** the plastic pencil cases are going to be filled after the service. A box at the back of the church will be available for the above items to be dropped off in support of the Learning Church Initiative. Items will need to be brought in no later than August 11th. Thank you in advance for everyone's support.

VESTRY will meet on August 18, 2019

Afton Craft Day, August 24 – St. Ann's, in conjunction with the Diocese Learning Initiative, will have a table at the Afton Arts & Crafts Day, in front of the church, as we did last year. It has been decided to do the same as we did last year, write a prayer on a strip of fabric and bring those prayers to the Altar the next day. At the June Vestry meeting, Vestry members voted to hand out plastic pencil cases to young people who will be attending school in September. These cases will contain erasers, small ruler, pencils, & glue sticks. An 8x10 note pad will be available for those who need them. It is intended to distribute up to 30 of these cases. St. Ann's Vestry is asking for parishioner's support in purchasing some of the items. It will not be necessary to purchase pencils as engraved pencils have been ordered with the inscription, "St. Ann's Episcopal Church".



**Church Terms:**

LUKE, THE EVANGELIST – Not an Apostle, but the devoted physician of Paul. He had studied at Antioch and probably was converted after Christ's ascension. He is the author of "The Gospel according to St. Luke" and "The Acts of the Apostles." He is commemorated on October 18th. His symbol is the ox. Liturgical color: Red



8/2 Hailey Tallmadge
 8/4 Milton Harding
 8/9 Al Tucker
 8/13 Grayson Harding
 8/14 Judy Rettberg
 8/20 Maxwell Harding
 8/22 Amy Weiber



8/28 Ken & Connie Beames

Please email me below if you want your dates added.
cttallmadg@aol.com

Sunday School Teachers



Sunday School will start in September and teachers will be needed. If you have taught Sunday School in the past, please volunteer to teach again this year. If you have not taught and would like to, please let Tracey, Betty or Fr. David know. It is not difficult and can be fun and rewarding. If everyone is present, there can be 9 children. As a practical matter, we seldom have everyone here at the same time. We try to teach the children about Jesus and the Bible while letting them know that the Church loves and is interested in them. Teaching experience is not necessary. Our new smart TV is also helpful in the teaching process.

Please give prayerful consideration to helping with this important ministry.



St. Ann's Vestry Synopsis
July 2019

1. This month's outreach is going to "Danielle House"
2. Waiting for word from the contractor on replacing the counter in the kitchen. Still waiting for the 3rd. estimate for driveway work. Also waiting for an estimate from a local painter for painting the trim on windows on the church.
3. New financial software has been installed. The financial information is being transferred to the new software and this is expected to be completed by the end of the month. The new software has several improvements over the old.
4. We are checking on fuel oil prices if we prepay for this coming heating season.
5. The new coffee maker is here and is working well. Directions for using the Bunn coffee maker are posted on the wall behind the unit.
6. There was no formal financial report due to the information transfer process. The treasurer indicated that we are solvent (thanks be to God) with all bills paid.



**LEARNING COMMUNITY
INITIATIVES**

Many thanks to the following individuals who completed a Learning Communities Initiative project this past Sunday, July 28:

Robin, Larry and Lauren Felldin; Mya Boston; Kerri, Allyson and Garrett Vail. Thank you all for your participation in this project.

Who Has Faith?

By: Mark Mittelberg

“You have forgotten me and trusted in false gods.”

No doubt about it. You live your life by faith every day, even in the mundane details. What is faith? My broad definition is *beliefs and actions that are based on something considered to be trustworthy—even in the absence of absolute proof*. You believed the food was safe, so you ate it; you trusted the chair would hold you, so you sat in it; you’ve had luck in the past with computers, random canines, and commutes home—so why not try them again? You didn’t have conclusive evidence that any of these things would work out, but the odds seemed to be in your favor, so you went for it. All of us do similar things—routinely.

We live by faith not only in the small, everyday details of ordinary experience but also in the bigger issues related to religion, God, and eternity. We all adopt ‘beliefs and actions’ related to these areas ‘based on something considered to be trustworthy—even in the absence of absolute proof.’ So, if you are a Christian, you’re trusting in the teachings of Christ; if a Muslim, you’re trusting in the teachings of Muhammad; if a Buddhist, you’re trusting in the teachings of Buddha.

Even nonreligious people live in the trust that their nonreligious beliefs are accurate and that they won’t someday face a thoroughly religious Maker who did issue a list of guidelines and requirements that they failed to pay attention to.

Even well-known atheists like Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris live their lives accepting an unproven assumption that there is no God and that the opinions they express about these matters are ultimately helping and not harming people. They don’t *know* they are correct—they just *believe* and *act* as if they are.

What I am saying is that faith is **trust** and that no one is belief neutral. All people trust in something, even if that something is themselves. The ultimate question that people need to ask, then, is whether what they’re trusting in is, in fact, *trustworthy*.

As one who spent almost two years investigating the Christian faith as an atheist, and who was compelled to follow God’s truth even when I didn’t want to, I’ll tell you with great assurance that the claims of Christ are true and worth trusting in completely. We all trust in something. Have you examined your beliefs to make sure they’re trustworthy?



The Final Word 

“What is Faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. Faith gives us hope.”

Hebrews 11:1

“Faith is more than just believing; it is trusting our very lives to what we believe. For example, we can believe that someone can walk across a deep gorge on a tightrope. But are we willing to trust that person to carry us across? Faith says yes. Faith in God says that we are willing to trust God with our very lives. We are willing to follow his guidelines for living as outlined in the Bible because we have the conviction that this will be best for us. We are even willing to endure ridicule and persecution for our faith because we are so sure that what we believe is true and that the Christian life is what is best for us eternally.” NLT - GZ

**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

