

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 OUR
PASTOR**

Greetings and Glory to God our Father!

You may recall my submission for Aug had some of my favorite reflections from a book that I've been reading daily for a few years: *The Rule of Benedict, A Spirituality for the 21st Century* by Joan Chittister. It's part of my daily commitment to prayer and reflection and my participation in an Episcopal clergy group, Canterbury Way.

Well, a couple more comments by Chittister have made a very great impression on me this last couple months and I'd like to share them with you.

About the spiritual life, Joan writes, "The person who prays for the presence of God is, ironically, already in the presence of God. The person who seeks God has already found God to some extent. 'We are already counted as God's own,' the Rule reminds us. Benedict knows this and clearly wants us to know it as well. A dull, mundane life stays a dull, mundane life, no matter how intent we become on developing spiritually. No amount of churchgoing will change that. What attention to the spiritual life does change is our appreciation for the presence of God in our dull, mundane lives. We come to realize that we did not find God; God finally got our attention. The spiritual life is a grace

with which we must cooperate, not a prize to be captured or a trophy to be won." p. 7

Later on, Joan continues with this observation: "The difference between Benedict and other spiritual masters of his time lay in the fact that Benedict believed that the spiritual life was not an exercise in spiritual gymnastics. It was to be nothing 'harsh or burdensome.' And it was not a private process. It was to be done in community with others. It was to be a 'school' dedicated to 'the good of all concerned.' It was to be lived with 'patience.'

"The private preserves of the spiritual life are far from dead, however. It is so much easier to go to daily Mass and feel good about it than it is to serve soup at a soup kitchen. It is so much more comfortable to say bedtime prayers than it is to speak peace in a warring world. It is so much more satisfying to contribute to the building of a new church than it is to advocate fair trade over free trade. It is so much more heroic to fast than it is to be patient with a noisy neighbor. It is so much easier to give the handshake of peace in church than it is to speak gently in the family. And yet one without the other is surely fraud if life with God in community is truly of the essence of real spiritual growth." p. 22f

Some of what Joan (not to mention St Benedict!) says is not easy to read.

It sometimes shines a bright light on aspects of ourselves that we would rather ignore. And yet, because it's written in hard-earned wisdom and love (and we're usually reading it privately so that the words can resonate in our hearts and our heads) it can really help us make important steps forward in our spiritual journey – individually and (as Joan makes clear) together in community. The spiritual life is also NOT a "one shot and you're done" or a "three strikes and you're out" sort of thing. It's daily reminders and attempts. Daily reflection and action. An ongoing effort to train our attention on God and by doing so, share in the source of life and love. Blessing upon blessing to you all!

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
Oct 6	HC	C.Tarvin	C.Tarvin	BV	JR	B.Vail/A.Vail
Oct 13	MP	P.Tucker	P.Tucker	AC	-----	A.Cimini
Oct 20	MP	A.Wieber	D.Wieber	----	-----	D.Wieber
Oct 27	MP	P.Tucker	P.Tucker	RF	-----	B.Vail
Nov 3	HC	D.Vail	D.Vail	BV	BV	D.Vail/T.Tallmadge
Church School						
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Oct 6	T.Vail			Oct 14	Closed due to long holiday weekend	
Oct 13 No church school		B.Vail		Oct 16	J.Rettberg/J.Seacat	
Oct 20	K.Vail	J.Rettberg	T.Tallmadge			
Oct 27	R.Felldin	B.Vail				
Lectionary (Year C)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Oct 6	Pent. 17	Lamentations 1:1-6	Psalm 137	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10	
Oct 13	Pent. 18	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7	Psalm 66:1-11	2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19	
Oct 20	Pent. 19	Jeremiah 31:27-34	Psalm 119:97-104	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8	
Oct 27	Pent. 20	Joel 2:23-32	Psalm 65	2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18	Luke 18:9-14	
Nov 3	Pent. 21 All Saints	Daniel 7:1-3,15-18	Psalm 149	Ephesians 1:11-23	Luke 6:20-31	



Altar Duty for the month of October, Betty Vail 639-1201 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.

St. Ann's Prayer List for October 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
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.

10/8 Grace Affuso
10/12 Rylee Noone
10/19 Ella Parsons
10/22 Carol Cimini
10/31 Andrea DeBetta



10/6 Calvin & Tracey Tallmadge



Don't forget to FALL
back 1 hr November 3

A big thank you to Mado
 Cimini and plumber's helper
 Tom Vail for installing a new
 sump pump in the well
 behind the Parish Hall.
 Many thanks guys!!





Church Terms: MATTHEW, THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST – Originally a tax collector, Jesus called him to become one of his disciples. He is the writer of “The Gospel according to Saint Matthew,” the first book of the New Testament. He is symbolized by a winged man because he emphasizes the humanity of Christ. He is commemorated on September 21. Liturgical color: red



St. Ann's Vestry Synopsis

September 2019

- It was decided to send the August and September outreach dollars, \$400, to the Bahamas via the Episcopal Relief & Development, for hurricane relief.
- Parking lot needs work but repaving is too expensive. Decided to check into crack sealing and filling to see if this might buy some time.
- Expiring vestry and warden terms were reviewed. The Annual Meeting will be October 6th. and the positions of two vestry persons and one warden will be filled by election.
- Allyson Vail has volunteered to help with Sunday school classes.
- The fall ingathering for UTO will be October 27th. Amy and Denise Wieber volunteered to work with this project.

VESTRY will meet on October 20, 2019





ANNUAL MEETING: St. Ann's annual meeting will be held October 6th after the regular Sunday Service. Two Vestry terms and one Warden term are expiring. People who will be nominated at the annual meeting will be: Vestry persons for a three-year term expiring 12/31/22, Judy Rettberg and Amedeo Cimini. Warden, for a two-year term expiring 12/31/2021, Daniel Vail. The annual meeting is an Episcopal requirement. A short meeting will begin during coffee hour and last approximately 20 minutes.

Please plan to attend.



SAFE CHURCH TRAINING will be held at St. Ann's Episcopal Church on Sunday, October 27th beginning at 10:45a.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend and be recertified in working with children. Please contact a Warden if you plan to attend this important training.

UTO

The UTO originated as a way to show our gratitude to God for his many blessings. People were encouraged to put some loose change in one of the UTO blue boxes every time they were thankful for something in their lives. Over the years, this has generated a surprising amount of money which has been used both in this country and around the world to help others. There are two "in-gatherings" a year, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. There are "blue boxes" available in the Parish Hall. This provides a good discipline and helps those less fortunate than we are. The fall "in-gathering" will be October 27th. to be held at the regular Sunday morning service.





God Speaks

Borrowed from “the Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel & Mark Mittelberg

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

Most people believe in God, but they don’t expect him to show up at their doorstep or speak to them personally. But if God created the universe and all the life in it, why wouldn’t he be able to talk to us too? Surely God can speak. The question is whether he’s willing—and whether we’re really listening and discerning whether it’s his voice we’re hearing.

Acts 10 is a fascinating study in how God is able to communicate with people. First, he talked to Cornelius, a God-fearing Roman military leader, through an angel. The angel told Cornelius to end for a man named Peter, who would come and teach him. Then while Cornelius was sending messengers for Peter, God spoke to Peter through a dream, which prepared him to go speak to Cornelius and his family. And while Peter was figuring out the dream, God spoke to him in yet another way, this time directly through the Holy Spirit. He told Peter not to be afraid of the three men at the door looking for him, but to go with them immediately. (Talk about a divine setup!)

So, Peter traveled with the men back to the home of Cornelius and met with Cornelius’s family and friends who were assembled there. As Peter explained the gospel to them, the Holy Spirit came upon them in a way that was obvious—and they ended up becoming followers of Jesus just like Peter and his companions.

But that was during Bible times, you might be thinking. Does God speak to us in similar ways today? He certainly can! And he usually speaks to those who, like Cornelius and Peter, turn to him regularly. Even if you struggle with spiritual doubts, you can seek God and ask him to speak to you. Pray the “skeptic’s prayer” that the man in Mark 9:24 cried out to Jesus: “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” If you are sincere and really want to hear and follow God, I’m confident he’ll find a way to communicate his love and truth to you. It might be through the message of the Bible, the way he usually speaks to us, or it could be in more direct ways through his Spirit; but remember God’s Spirit will always agree with God’s Word, the Bible.

Jesus said in today’s verse that his sheep listen to his voice; he knows them, and they follow him. Will you listen for his voice today? He wants to guide and encourage you!

The Final Word 

Giving: *The Lord also told Moses, “Say this to the Levites: “When you receive the tithes from the Israelites, give a tenth of the tithes you receive—a tithe of the tithe—to the Lord as a gift.”* **Numbers 18 25-26**

“Giving to God never ends. As the Levites received money to support themselves for God’s work, so they also were to give money to God. “Tithe of the tithe’ is a powerful concept. We give as we have received; we share as others have shared with us. Think of the strength that lies in such a chain of continuous giving. In practicing this principle, everyone is included in giving as well as receiving.” NLT - GZ

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P. O. Box 22
Afton, New York 13730

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Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Wardens: Betty Vail
Tracey Tallmadge

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

