

## 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: Dan Vail: 607-240-9264 Tracey Tallmadge: 607-343-1301**

The peace of the Lord be with each and every one of you.



Every month it's kind of an odd thing for me to write these letters with the future in mind. I've never been able to predict the future, so each one of these letters is written in the hopes that some big thing doesn't happen before the message gets out to you all. Not surprisingly, that's even more poignantly true this month.

I began this letter on March 17<sup>th</sup>, the day Chenango County announced its first positive Covid-19 case. I have no idea where we'll be when April rolls around. Certainly, there will be more cases. This virus will eventually work its way through the population. Our goal is to merely slow down its progress so that hospitals aren't overwhelmed.

Also, at this point, I'm not sure how we'll be continuing to share our worship together as congregations, let alone how our vestries will meet. I'm certain I'll experiment with Facebook Live and Zoom, but when we'll be able to safely gather again is anyone's guess.

Now, the big question that begs to be asked is – "Where is God in all this?"

I firmly believe that God continually seeks to communicate God's presence to us in our personal and public lives. So, where is God in all this?

I reject the idea that Covid-19 is God's punishment on us or those directly afflicted with it. Jesus himself pointed out that when the Tower of Siloam collapsed and killed people that was not God's judgment against those people (Luke 13:4). Moreover, the clear message of Jesus' ministry is that one of the main purposes of God's people is to help those in need, help those who are suffering.

It's been pointed out in other natural (or even manmade) disasters and I'm convinced it applies to this one as well – God's presence is most clearly experienced precisely where help and healing is found. So, call your neighbor – especially the elderly and isolated. Make sure they have what they need. If you are in need, please don't be so proud that you don't contact one of us and ask for help.

There is so much confusion and stress and isolation happening now that now, more than ever, we need to focus on communicating with one another. Where is God in all this? Right here, in our caring for others. 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!

The following was created in the event that the Bishop allows services. We do not expect that before Easter.

<b>Service Schedule</b>						
<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>OT Reader</b>	<b>Epistle Reader</b>	<b>CS</b>	<b>EM</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>
Apr 5	There are	no services	until June	per the Bishop		
April 9	There are	no services	until June	per the Bishop		
Apr 10	There are	no services	until June	per the Bishop		
Apr 12	HC	C.Cimini	C.Cimini	-----	JR	A.Cimini/B.Vail
Apr 19	HC	Tracey	Tracey	BV	C.C.	Tracey/D.Vail
Apr 26	MP	J.Rettberg	J.Rettberg	RF	---	D.Vail
May 3	HC	D.Wieber	D.Wieber	AC	DW	Tracey/A.Cimini
<b>Church School</b>		<b>Morning Prayer</b>		<b>Food Pantry</b>		
Apr. 5	No CS					
Apr. 12	No CS			Apr 13	B.Vail/T.Tallmadge	
Apr 19	K.Vail			Apr 15	J.Rettberg/M.Kelly	
Apr 26	R.Felldin	T.Tallmadge	B.Vail			
<b>Lectionary (Year C)</b>						
<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>OT Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle Reading</b>	<b>Gospel Reading</b>	
<b>The following is provided for your Sunday reading if unable to view a service online.</b>						
Apr 5		Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11	
Apr 12		Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-18	
Apr 19		Acts 2:14a,22-32	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31	
Apr 26		Acts 2:14a,36-41	Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35	
May 3		Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10	



Altar Duty for the month of April is 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.

VESTRY will NOT meet April 19<sup>th</sup> due to the COVID-19 emergency.

Church Terms: **MAUNDY THURSDAY** – The Thursday of Holy Week when Christ washed the feet of His disciples, instituted the Lord's Supper, and gave a new commandment of love. John 13:3-4

**BRASS CLEANING** – This has been cancelled per instructions from our Bishop. Another date will be set up once our parish returns to a normal schedule.

During this period of absence from our church services, everyone is encouraged to read the lessons for each Sunday; Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel are all in your Bible. The Psalm can be found in your Prayer Book. If you do not have a Prayer Book at home, please call Tom Vail at 639-1201 and he will make sure you get one. The Lectionary readings for Year A are found below the service schedule. Since no one will be in church to fill in the May Service Schedule and IF we are able to begin services, Lay people, Acolytes, Eucharist Ministers, Children’s sermon people, will be contacted as to a date they are available for those positions.

**St. Ann’s Prayer List for April 2020**

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.**

<u>Short Term</u>
Raevin
Robert
Jeannette
Jennifer
Rhiannon
Kathy
James
Jody
Thomas
Burdette
Barbara Harris

<u>Long Term</u>	
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	Peter
Joyce	Dakota
Mya	Nate
Holly	Marion
Cindy	Amaya
Lois	Bill
Clifford	Rachel
Richard	Hailey



**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, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.*



**St. Ann's Vestry Synopsis**  
**March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

1. Outreach for March was designated to go to the Episcopal Relief and Development organization for tornado relief in Nashville.
2. There was discussion on how to handle walk in requests for automobile fuel.
3. Delegates for this year's diocesan convention were discussed. Tracey and Betty offered to be delegates. Denise offered to be an alternate. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be the guest speaker this year.
4. Easter offering was discussed. It was decided to divide the combined Easter and Good Friday offerings between the Berkeley Yale Episcopal Seminary and the Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.
5. The coronavirus pandemic and the response of the Episcopal Church was discussed. A hard copy mailing will be made to all parishioners after Fr. David relays information received at the upcoming conference with the Bishop and clergy.
6. Card to be sent to Art Jones thanking him for plowing the sidewalk this past winter

During this most difficult time, please be aware that your Vestry and Wardens are keeping up to date on what is going on with the world and taking direction from our Bishop. Father David is monitoring what is going on and we will keep all of you informed as soon as more info is available. Until then please continue to pray for St. Ann's, our country and the world. We will contact everyone as soon as we get more info. Watch for emails or letter in the mail. Also, Gary Zurn is keeping St. Ann's website up to date with info as it becomes available. Please don't hesitate to call your wardens or Father David should you need to. Phone #'s are listed on the front of the bulletin. We are all in this together and together we shall prevail.

**Below are some links you may like to pass the time:**

<https://www.thewiredword.com/covid19-lesson-for-churches>

[www.hometouchministry.com/covid19-resources-for-elderly-homebound](http://www.hometouchministry.com/covid19-resources-for-elderly-homebound)

Dear God,

We need you!

We need you now more than ever.

So many of us are afraid. We don't know  
what to think or who to believe.  
We need you.

Each day increases our worry; worry for ourselves, our families,  
our friends and for our nation. In fact, dear God, we worry  
for people all over the world.  
We need you.

Blame and bickering abound. Calm voices of reason are  
hard to be found.  
We need you.

The unknown is what frightens us the most. For  
so many of us, we've been blessed to live in a place and  
a country where we have few if any fears. Now we are  
scared of what comes next.  
We need you.

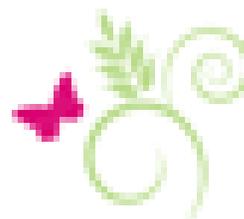
For too long we've lived lives buried on our phones. Or eyes  
stuck on TV from morning 'til eve. We've lost sight of your  
Word. And the peace that only you can bring.  
We need you.

Please bless our family and friends. Bless our neighbors - friend or foe.  
Guide our leaders at this time. Bring us together.  
We need you.

Take our hand and draw us near as we battle with our fear. Help us find  
ways to reconnect with our family and friends. Help us to look out for  
our neighbors and co-workers and students. Most importantly,  
help us reconnect with you.

Lord, we need you.

Amen



### Church-Going

The Rev. Stephen J. Elkins-Williams

**What is the single most important thing you can do to grow in the spiritual life? I would reply without hesitation, “Go to church at least weekly.”**

**There are many reasons we come up with to avoid going to church; “Sunday is my only day to relax, “That’s our family/couple time, ‘I don’t get much out of it; People aren’t friendly; I just have too much to do.” But in the end, if we are honest, they all boil down to rationalization and selfishness. Nothing is more important than going to church.**

**Nothing is more important because we were created to worship God, and not just individually, but communally. Our very nature as those whom God created. “knit together in our mothers’ wombs,” is to pay homage to God. Together we are to “worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,” and with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven, to proclaim the glory of God’s name, “Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts...”**

**Nothing is more important because going to church pulls us beyond our limited focus and our narrow vision. The challenge of belief, the call to love others, and the concrete experience of community, of people of different ages and needs and viewpoints, stretches us beyond ourselves. When we stop going to church or go infrequently, we cut off even the possibility of being challenged to new spiritual growth.**

**Nothing is more important because each time we go to church, we offer a visible witness – to the world and to the Church – of the presence of the living God. Imagine if there were no churches, or no one went, what message that would communicate. When we go to church, our example and our word (in prayer and hymn) strengthen others to receive “the Good News of God in Christ.”**

**Simply going to church – mere physical presence – does not insure that we will love God and our neighbor and be powerful witnesses to others. We must “go” in the full sense of “enter into.” But if we do go to church, faithfully and frequently, not giving into our excuses, we will be amazed at the growth God can work in us.**

From The Anglican Digest



#### Slow Food Days

A young friend asked me the other day, “What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?”

“We didn’t have fast food when I was growing up,” I replied. “All food was slow.”

“Seriously, where did you eat?” he asked.

“It was a place called ‘home,’” I explained.

“Mom cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table and prayed before eating. My mother saw to it that we always had healthy, fresh foods on the table. And if I didn’t like what she put on my plate; I was allowed to sit there until I did like.”

My young friend was laughing so hard I didn’t tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the dinner table.

Author unknown.

Birthdays

4/09 Jane Seacat  
 4/25 Maxwell Harding  
 Kerri Vail



April

Anniversaries

4/23 Denise & Amy Weiber  
 Carol & Mado Cimini

Puzzle!

Use the clues to complete words with various vowel arrangements. Then place the circled letters in the correct blanks below to complete an Easter phrase.

1. Brave: ○ \_\_\_\_\_ E O U \_\_\_\_\_
2. A dark profile: \_\_\_\_\_ O U E \_\_\_\_\_
3. Circular: ○ O U \_\_\_\_\_
4. Running away: \_\_\_\_\_ E E ○ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Savage, fierce: \_\_\_\_\_ I O U ○ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Odd or nostalgic: \_\_\_\_\_ U A I \_\_\_\_\_
7. A person from the 50th state: \_\_\_\_\_ A ○ I A \_\_\_\_\_
8. Compress, push together: ○ \_\_\_\_\_ U E E \_\_\_\_\_
9. A large tree in California: ○ \_\_\_\_\_ U \_\_\_\_\_ I A \_\_\_\_\_
10. Paddling in a small, narrow boat: \_\_\_\_\_ ○ E I \_\_\_\_\_
11. Upright, moral and righteous: ○ \_\_\_\_\_ U O U \_\_\_\_\_
12. Lining up in a row: \_\_\_\_\_ U E U ○ \_\_\_\_\_
13. Gorgeous: \_\_\_\_\_ E A U \_\_\_\_\_ E ○ U \_\_\_\_\_
14. Precipitation: ○ A I \_\_\_\_\_



Easter phrase:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
 9 10 11 12 13 14

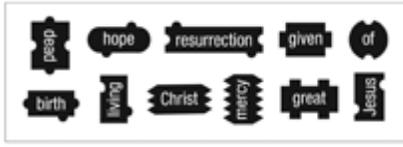
Answers: 1. courageous, 2. silhouette, 3. round, 4. fleeing, 5. vicious, 6. quaint, 7. Hawaiian, 8. squeeze, 9. sequoia, 10. canoeing, 11. virtuous, 12. queuing, 13. beautiful, 14. rain; Christ is Savior!



> NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.



In his \_\_\_\_\_ he has  
 \_\_\_\_\_ us new \_\_\_\_\_ into a  
 \_\_\_\_\_ through the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_.

1 PETER 1:3, NIV

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, NIV



**The Final Word**

**Faith:** *“After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel. Then the Israelotes did what was evil in the LORD’S sight and worshiped images of Baal.... “* **Judges 2:10-11**

“Each person stands alone before God. But you have the wonderful priviledge of encouraging the next generation, or even the next two, to love God and follow him. Think about that when it is time for family devotions, when you take your family to church and Sunday school, or when you pray with your children, Think about it when you tuck them in bed at night and tell hem Bible stories. This is inheritance at its best. Help your children love God’s Word; read it to them daily! Sing God’s songs to them. Most of all, be a role model. Your children will stand alone before God, but they will likely stand in the way they have see you stand. NLT - GZ

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**P. O. Box 22**  
**Afton, New York 13730**

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 COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER. STUDY  
 AND ACTION

**Clergy:** The Rev. David A. Hanselman

**Wardens:** Dan Vail  
 Tracey Tallmadge

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

