

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



August. Are you feeling the “dog days of summer” as much as I am? Honestly, I have had no idea what to write to you about. The “dog days” have really gotten to me. But as so often happens, when I thought about how “dog days” was sticking in my brain, I began to wonder about it.

What does it mean? Where does it come from? Could I possibly find some way to talk about it in a way that might inform our faith? I quickly found answers to the first two questions, but it is really up to you to determine if I provide anything

close to an answer to the third one.

Interestingly, “dog days of summer” comes from ancient astrology. Sometime around the middle of July, the constellation Canis Major (the Big Dog) begins to rise above the eastern morning sky. The brightest star in Canis Major is Sirius (the “dog star”). So, when Sirius begins to make its appearance in the morning sky, the dog days of summer begin.

The resources I found stress the work of ancient Greek and Egyptian astrologers. Now, what stands out in my mind from what I read was how Sirius rising had completely different connotations to the Greeks and Egyptians. For the Greeks, it was the beginning of bad times. For Egyptians, the beginning of good.

Now just a comment about astrology from the Biblical perspective – the Old Testament condemns it, but the New Testament does not. In fact, the magi who honored the baby Jesus in Bethlehem were astrologers. There is some food for thought!

But, honestly, that is pretty much all I have got for this month. Covid-19 separation is really getting me down. It was, however, such a wonderful evening when we were able to gather for Communion July 22d! It was difficult, though. I am generally a healthy person but wearing a mask in the heat and with all the talking I have got to do; it was easily the most physically demanding Communion I've ever done. It really helped me consider how difficult this time is for folks who are not as healthy as me. Any opportunity to gain some understanding about how difficult things are for other people, is a good lesson. Let us hold one another in prayer with good thoughts and kindness. Blessings to you all!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

The SERVICE SCHEDULE is not available due to the COVID-19 and absence of parishioners in July to fill it in. Once regular services begin again, Lay Readers in attendance will be asked to read the lessons for that particular Sunday. The readings for each Sunday in July are listed below. Please take the time to read the lessons and Gospel for each Sunday.

The corona virus is causing more than its share of problems but it hasn't stopped us from having a Sunday worship service. Holding a service via the "zoom" software is a little strange but seems to be working okay.

If you haven't tried tuning in for a "zoom" service, why not try it next Sunday.

Everyone who has their e-mail address on file should be receiving a forward of Fr. David's instruction letter for each service. If you have not been receiving that letter, please advise Tom Vail of your e-mail address and you will be added to the parish listing. Bottom415@aol.com

Yes, the "zoom" service is different, but change is what life is all about. Services are also available through the Diocese via their website.

Service Schedule						
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Lectionary (Year A)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
			Lectionary (Year A)			
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Aug 2		Genesis 32:22-31	Psalm 17:1-7,16	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21	
Aug 9		Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28	Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33	
Aug 16		Genesis 45:1-15	Psalm 133	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28	
Aug 23		Exodus 1:8-2:10	Psalm 124	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20	
Aug 30		Exodus 3:1-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28	
Sept 6		Exodus 12:1-14	Psalm 149	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20	



Altar Duty for the month of August is Betty Vail 639-1201. If you are giving flowers in memory of a loved one, please notify Tracey Tallmadge 343-1301 no later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that she can include a notice in the bulletin.

St. Ann’s Prayer List for August 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
Jody
Thomas
Burdette
George
Eileen
Linda
Jason
Anne

<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
Hailey	Amaya
Clifford	Rachel
Richard	



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.



Birthdays

8/01 Joey Parsons
 8/02 Hailey Tallmadge
 8/04 Milton Harding
 8/09 Al Tucker
 8/13 Grayson Harding
 8/14 Judy Rettberg
 8/22 Amy Weiber

Anniversaries

8/28 Ken & Connie Beames

*Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary. Call or email
 607-343-1301 cttallmadg@aol.com*

CHURCH TERMS: MAGNIFICAT - Latin, "magnify." A major canticle used in the Vesper Service. The words are those of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth. Luke 1: 46-55



Some Church Vocabulary

AMEN—The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

INCENSE—Holy smoke!

MAGI—The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

PEW—A medieval torture device still found in many churches.

KYRIE ELEISON—The only Greek words that most parishioners can recognize besides gyros and baklava. (In case you can't remember, it means Lord have Mercy.)



St. Ann's Vestry Synopsis

Vestry Meeting (zoom)

July 26, 2020

1. Outreach to go to Afton VFW towards their building repair fund.
2. Thank you from Berkley Seminary at Yale was read.
3. Fr. David gave an update on reopening status.
4. Bob Eastman is working on the sign information update.
5. Fr. David recorded a video for the Afton School graduating seniors.
6. LED lighting estimate for the conversion of all lighting in the Church and Parish Hall was presented. The NYSE&G program will pay 74% of the cost of bulbs and retrofitting for a net cost of \$834.54. Estimate that the update will pay for itself within 2/3 years.
7. Parish Hall is being used by Chenango Co. Mental Health for counseling.

The Station

Tucked away in our subconscious is an idyllic vision. We see ourselves on a long trip that spans the continent. We are traveling by train. Out the windows we drink in the passing scene of cars on nearby highways, of children waving at a crossing, of cattle grazing on a distant hillside, of smoke pouring from a power plant, of row upon row of corn and wheat, of flatlands and valleys, of mountains and rolling hillsides, of city skylines and village halls.

But uppermost in our minds is the final destination. Bands will be playing and flags waving. Once we get there our dreams will come true, and the pieces of our lives will fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. How restlessly we pace the aisles, damning the minutes for loitering—waiting, waiting, waiting for the station.

“When we reach the station, that will be it!” we cry.

“When I’m 18.”

“When I buy that new car.”

“When we put that last child through college.”

“When we have paid off the mortgage.”

“When I get that promotion.”

“When I reach the age of retirement, I shall live happily ever after!”

Sooner or later we must realize there is no station, no one place to arrive at once and for all. The true joy of life is the trip. The station is only a dream. It constantly outdistances us.

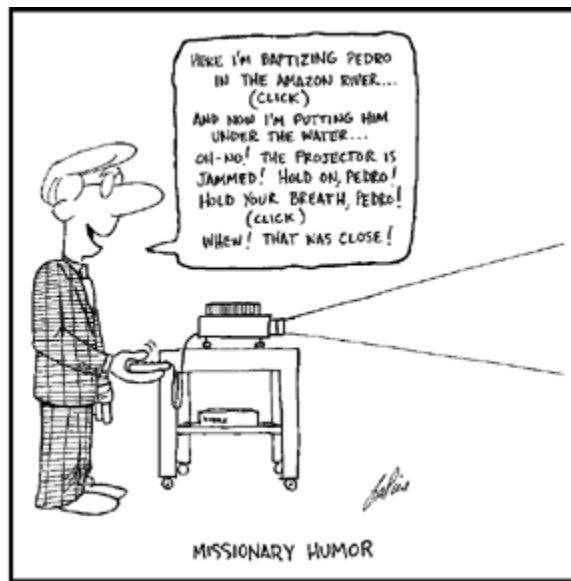
“Relish the moment” is a good motto, especially when coupled with Psalm 118:24; *“This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”* It isn’t the burdens of today that drive us mad. It is the regrets over yesterday and the fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are twin thieves who rob us of today.

So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, go barefoot more often, swim more rivers, watch more sunsets, laugh more, cry less, help those less fortunate than we are. Even in these unique times, life must be lived as we go along. The station will come soon enough.



Wednesday Communion Service

The Communion Service held on July 22nd. at the Zion Church parking lot went well. The service is in the shade, you can hear, and everyone got a chance to talk with the people that they see on the Sunday Zoom services. The next communion Service will be August 19th, 2020 7:00pm



Humor for Hard Times

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The low self- esteem support group will meet Thursday at 7PM. Please use the back door.



The Final Word 

Worry: Philippians 4:6 – “Don’t worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done”

To worry is human. We worry about job security. We worry about unexpected expenses. We worry when our children ride their bikes around the block for the first time. Worry is a normal and natural part of life. But too much worry can distract and paralyze—and can even lead to a sinful denial of God’s presence and grace in our lives. Scripture teaches that we find rest from inappropriate worry when we admit we can’t control the future and entrust ourselves—and our loved ones—to the God who does. NLT-GEZ

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

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AND ACTION

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

