

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



Happy Lent! Or perhaps I should wish you all - Reflective, Penitent, Fulfilling and Reconciling Lent!

I think most of you know that I'm of two minds about Lent. Part of me sees it as some sort of manufactured, self-indulgent exercise in wallowing in our sinfulness. And the language of the Ash Wednesday service doesn't really help much: the opening prayer and its "...acknowledging our wretchedness" seems a little much.

After all, we are living in the time after the Resurrection. That first Easter morning when the tomb was empty and the Risen Jesus Christ was reunited with his friends was the first day of an entirely new world order when us lowly human beings could be truly reconciled with God. To take a couple months out of the year and focus on our sinfulness (whatever that word means in all its many dimensions and usages through history), seems to me to deny that each day is a wonderfully blessed opportunity to walk in light and share the light of Christ with others.



Pastor's Message
for Lent

But, that's the side of me that's skeptical of Lent. There's another side of me that welcomes and embraces Lent. While I do still think that some of the wording of our Ash Wednesday service goes a bit too far, I also strongly believe that it's always important to recognize and admit our limitations and shortcomings – most definitely NOT to beat ourselves up about them, but in order that we might hold more tightly to this incredible gift that God, through Jesus, has given us.

However, if we exclusively embrace Easter, then it's possible for us to see the gift of reconciliation with God and to pridefully think that somehow or other we deserve it. We don't deserve it. And yet it's offered to us.

When it comes down to it, the reason I ultimately embrace Lent is because of one key concept it offers to us – balance (or perhaps "perspective" is a better word). I think the spirit of Lent is captured nicely in a quote from Joan Chittister's *The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century* (yes, it's the same book I seem to cite most every month!).

Joan shares a lesson from the Jewish tradition: "Each of us should have two pockets, "the rabbis teach. "In one should be the message, 'I am dust and ashes,' and in the other we should have written, 'For me the universe was made.'" 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!

Service Schedule						
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Mar 1	HC	T.Tallmadge	T.Tallmadge	BV	CC	Tracey/A.Cimini
Mar 8	MP	T.Tallmadge	T.Tallmadge	AC	----	A.Cimini
Mar 15	HC	A.Wieber	A.Wieber	RF	DW	D.Wieber/B.Vail
Mar 22	MP	C.Cimini	C.Cimini	MH	----	D.Vail
Mar 29	MP	B.Vail	B.Vail	TV	----	Tracey/G.Vail
Apr 5	HC	A.Wieber	A.Wieber	---	DW	Tracey/B.Vail
Church School		Morning Prayer			Food Pantry	
Mar 1	J.Rettberg					
Mar 8	B.Vail	T.Tallmadge	T.Vail	Mar 9	B.Vail/T.Tallmadge	
Mar 15	R.Felldin			Mar 11	J.Rettberg/M.Kelly	
Mar 22	T.Vail	D.Wieber	M.Harding			
Mar 29	J.Rettberg	D.Vail	A.Vail			
Lectionary (Year C)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel	
Mar 1		Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11	
Mar 8		Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17	
Mar 15		Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42	
Mar 22		1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41	
Mar 29		Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45	
Apr 5		Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11	



Altar Duty for the month of March is Tracey Tallmadge 343-1301. 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 March 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

<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.

March 8th
Spring ahead



St. Ann's Vestry Synopsis February 16, 2020

1. Outreach for February was split between the Broome County Humane Society and the Chenango County SPCA.
2. It was decided to try a different approach to the Lenten study this year by having a short discussion period each Sunday, during Lent, at the coffee hour, using the publication "Lenten Meditations" from the Episcopal Relief & Development organization as a guide. These booklets may be picked up at the Church.
3. The Parochial Report has been completed, approved by the Vestry and filed with the National Church. Thank you to Gary Zurn and Tom Vail.
4. A request has been received from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to consider sending the Good Friday offering to the Episcopal Churches in the Middle East. This will be acted on at the March meeting.
5. The Rector's discretionary account for gas money requests has been established.
6. The Chenango Co. Building inspector report has been received and was rated as passed, "Good Job."
7. Deacon Kaye will be presenting a program on opioids on Sunday March 15th. The Vestry will purchase breakfast pizza for that coffee hour.
8. The St. Ann's exceptional student scholarship was approved for this year's graduation.
9. The Learning Communities Initiative was discussed. We need some new ideas on what we can do to reach out to the community.
10. The treasurer's report shows the parish as being solvent with all bills paid.

VESTRY will meet March 15th, 2020

**The Episcopal Church
Marking a Milestone, Moving Forward**

Somewhere near you, there's a blue-and-white sign bearing the familiar slogan: The Episcopal Church Welcomes You. It represents some 7,400 congregations that trace their beginnings in North America to a small but hopeful group of English Christians who arrived May 14, 1607 at a place they called Jamestown—the first permanent settlement in the New World.

You may know us as Washington's monumental National Cathedral, site of historic services and ceremonies, or the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, still unfinished, but already the largest cathedral in the world.

But the Episcopal Church is also Boston's Old North Church, founded in 1723 and made famous by serving as the beacon for Paul Revere's revolution-spurring "midnight ride." And Philadelphia's Christ Church, home parish of 15 signers of the Declaration of Independence, host to the first General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1785.

It's Trinity Parish on Wall Street in New York, formed in 1698, and St. Paul's Chapel just down the street, frequented by George Washington and the spiritual healing center of Ground Zero since September 11, 2001.

It's also Epiphany Church in Los Angeles, where Cesar Chavez, rallied the United Farm workers. And Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Cumberland, Maryland, whose basement was a major stop on the Underground Railroad to freedom for enslaved African Americans. And St. John's Church in Greenwich Village, a meeting place for gay and lesbian action following the 1969 Stonewall uprising.

It's a parish in Iowa. A campus ministry in Georgia. A mission in Dinetah – the Navajo Reservation. A cathedral in Utah. Even a house church in Vermont.

Wherever you find us, you'll find the Book of Common Prayer and a Christian faith that honors and engages the Bible, the tradition of the Church, and God-given human reason.

Joined in prayer, you'll find people with many points of view – Christians who are progressive, moderate, and conservative – yet who value the diversity of their faith community.

That's a heritage drawn from our deep roots in nearly 2,000 years of English Christianity, and shared by a world Anglican Communion that unites nearly 80 million people in 164 countries through prayer and ministries committed to caring for "the least of these," as Jesus commanded, by reducing poverty, disease, and oppression.

Episcopalians struggle with the same issues that trouble all people of faith: how to interpret an ancient faith for today ... how to maintain the integrity of tradition while reaching out to a hurting world...how to disagree and yet love and respect one another.

Occasionally those struggles make the news. People find they can no longer walk with us on their journey and may be called to a different spiritual home. Some later make their way back, and find they are welcomed with open arms.

Despite the headlines, the Episcopal Church keeps moving forward in mission – in all 50 U. S. states and the District of Columbia, as well as congregations in Belgium, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Guam, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Micronesia, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, Taiwan, Venezuela, and the Virgin Islands. We're committed to a transformed world, as Jesus taught: a world of justice, peace, wholeness, and holy living.

We've grown a lot in 400 years, since that 1607 worship service from the Book of Common Prayer was held in Jamestown—inside and out. Come see for yourself. Come and visit...come and explore...come and grow.

St. Ann's Episcopal Church
125 Main Street, Afton New York 13730
Service Time: 9:15 A.M. Sunday



Church Terms: LENT – A penitential season with special weekly services to commemorate the suffering and death of Jesus. It begins on Ash Wednesday, a movable date, and lasts for forty days until Easter. The fifth week of Lent is called Passion Week, and the sixth, Holy Week. Liturgical color: violet, except on Good Friday when it is black.

BRASS CLEANING – On Sunday, March 29, after coffee hour, the brass will be cleaned in preparation for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. If anyone is available to participate in this ministry, it would be most helpful. Many hands make for light work.

EASTER LILY - If you are interested in ordering an Easter Lily to be placed on the Altar in memory of a loved one, please contact Betty Vail at 639-1201.



6th Connie Beames
 7th Nancy Setford and Bobbi Zurn
 16th Alan Seacat
 25th Jody Proffitt
 27th Melrose Kelly
 28th Tracey Tallmadge and Laurin Felldin

If you have to have your Birthday or Anniversary added to our list, please email your info to: cttallmadg@aol.com



This year's Lenten bible study will be a little different. We have handed out Lenten Meditation booklets to all who want one. It is a very short reading for each day of Lent. Each Sunday at coffee hour we will have a short discussion about the week's readings. If you want a booklet, please see any warden for one. Our hopes are that this will be well received. Your feedback is important.

Lent

Puzzle!

Find and circle these words associated with the Lenten journey to the cross.

colt	denial	kiss	repent
confess	donkey	lots	silver
cross	forsaken	palms	sins
crown	Gethsemane	penance	suffer
crucifixion	Golgotha	Pilate	thorns
death	hosanna	prayer	vigil

E N A M E S H T E G R L W Y
 C L E U X B M T H B U C W B
 N R I K Y P A T E T I Y X Y
 A V J G A L B R E Y A R P B
 N G N L I S N L A I N E D X
 E W M P R V R D H B N R D F
 P S O G O L G O T H A B S C
 D L N R O C O N F E S S I K
 O T H T C P E K W U O U N D
 M N S H N P W E D R H F S K
 U N F O E T K Y C S G F O E
 H E C R E V L I S W Q E C M
 H V H N C X S O C C J R L O
 F Q E S U D S H C A A Y M C
 C R U C I F I X I O N S R V



Forty Days OF LENT

The Final Word 

Courage: *“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you....”* **Isiah 41:10**

“We are quite naturally afraid when we walk alone in frightening places and circumstances. But we have more courage when we walk with a friend who is strong. In walking with the Lord God, who holds the universe in his hands, we should feel free to be courageous! Consider what comforts us when we face the death of a loved one. Flowers, food, even the words of others are appreciated, but a greater source of strength is our friends and family staying near us, giving us those gentle touches and looks that communicate their sorrow and care. When we face troubled times, we must never forget that God remains close by, ready to supply us with his love and comfort. This gives us the courage to go on.”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: Dan Vail
Tracey Tallmadge

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

