

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



As I was preparing to write this, I was reminded of a time when my mom helped me realize that in at least one important way, I am a little like Luke Skywalker. And, even though I am sure mom never saw *The Empire Strikes Back*, she was (at least in this important way) very much like Yoda!

You see, she realized that I really liked to look ahead to things. As Yoda said about Luke, "All his life he has looked away...to the future, to the horizon. Never his mind on where he was."

And then one day on a long distance phone call from where I was stationed in the Army, as I was telling her how much I missed home and how much I was looking forward to being home, she told me, "David, you're wishing your life away. Find a way to be happy with each day you have. Don't go wishing your life away." This little episode came back to me as I was thinking about this newsletter. You see, a big part of me just wants April to be over. I just want there to be a light at the end of the tunnel for this social distancing and I am hoping and praying that light may come in May.

Now, of course, it has never a bad thing to plan for and hope for the future, but it is not a particularly good thing to wish the days away until then. And it is not just a matter of staying busy. I have been thinking about how much I just like to stay busy – work, work, work. Sometimes even regular morning prayer is just another excuse for busy work; checking off another thing on a daily To Do list.

What is needed is a way of finding value in every day. What is needed is a time of thoughtful, prayerful appreciation for every day.

This should come as no surprise, but I have got to tell you that regular daily prayer can do exactly that. Not, that is, if it's just another item on a To Do list, but if you can take the time every day to focus and intentionally enter into reading Scripture and prayer, then you can most definitely experience the God-given value of each day you're given.

Honestly, this has been mostly a reminder to myself; it is what I am working on. If it is helped any of you, then all thanks be to God. Alleluia! Blessings, my friends!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

The SERVICE SCHEDULE is not available due to the COVID-19 and absence of parishioners in April 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 May 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. On April 19th. we added some "Holy Humor" to the service which is always fun. According to the parish newsletter from St. David's church in DeWitt, God and Satan were talking and Satan bragged that he had effectively shut down all churches. God's reply was: "Now every home has been made a Church."

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 C)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel	
May 3		Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10	
May 10		Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14	
May 17		Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:7-18	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21	
May 24		Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11	
May 31		Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:25-35, 37	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23	
Jun 7		Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalm 8 or Canticle 13	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20	



Altar Duty for the month of May is Pat Tucker, 639-1984. 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 May 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, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love’s sake. Amen.

Birthdays

5/3 Adleigh Noone
 5/5 Pat Tucker
 5/11 Betty Vail
 5/20 Kathy Vail
 5/22 Allyson Vail

Anniversaries

If I am missing someone's birthday or anniversary or if you want someone added, please let me know 607-343-1301 or cttallmadg@aol.com

About Morning Prayer

Since we are unable to celebrate Holy Communion, this seemed appropriate.

The service of Morning Prayer is the amalgamation of two of the mediaeval monastic choir offices – Matins and Lauds. The monastic Office was eight fold – based upon two quotations from the psalms; “At midnight do I rise and give thee thanks” and “Seven times a day do I praise thee; because of thy righteous judgments.”

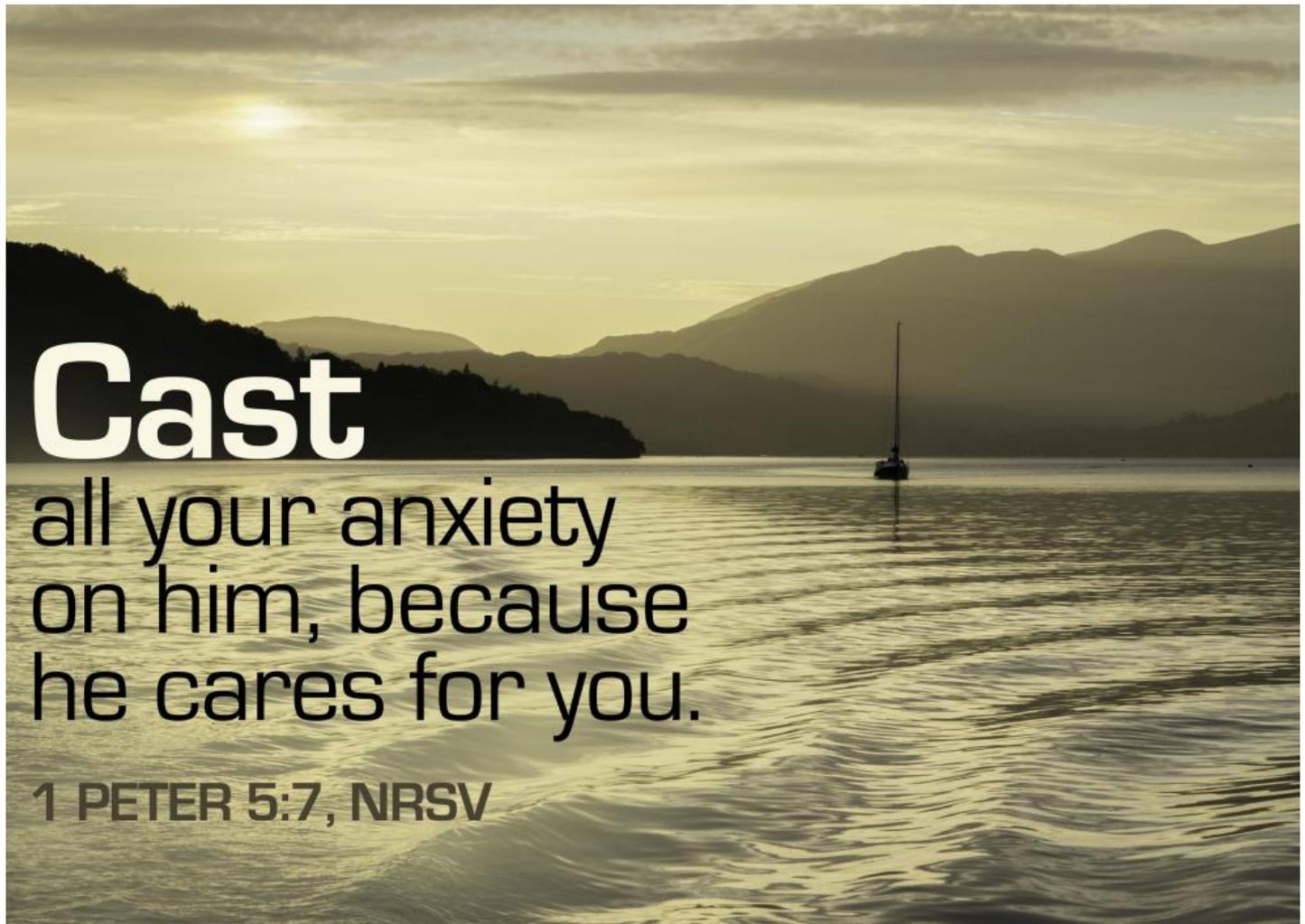
The basic structure was laid down in the Rule of St. Benedict and gradually elaborated over the years. The full monastic office consisted of Vigil, Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sext, None, Vespers, and Compline. The Vigil began “at midnight”, was usually combined with Lauds, and the combined Office was called Matins. The other six offices were sung at two or three hour intervals throughout the day. Given its completeness the monastic Office was adopted and adapted by parish priests. However, the services could be long, taking several hours each day to say. This was clearly too much for a busy parish priest, and the services were often rushed or shortened.

In 1549 Archbishop Cranmer revised the Breviary Offices into two services called Matins (Morning Prayer), and Evensong. (Evening Prayer). In his revision Cranmer reduced the number of Psalms in each office, and reduced the number of lessons to two, but made them longer. In the original 1549 Lectionary, the Psalms were read through on a thirty-day cycle, and the Bible was read through once a year. Apart from some minor alterations in 1552 and again in 1789, these services have been little altered since 1549.

Courtesy of St. Luke's Church, Sedona, AZ.

A Touch of Humor:

At this tax time of year, did you even notice that when you put the two words “The” and “IRS together, it spells “Theirs”?

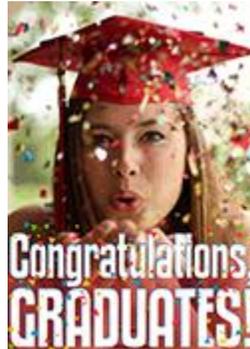


The United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in UTO discover that thankfulness leads to generosity. UTO is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the monies to support mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion. UTO Sundays are typically in May and November. The Sunday closest to All Saints Sunday is typically the "ingathering" for fall. Many people find satisfaction in supporting this mission and ministry of the Church, in thankfulness for all the blessings they have received. Checks may be sent to St. Ann's marked UTO.



Lauren Felldin, daughter of Robin and Larry Felldin will graduate from high school this year and will be attending Wells College in the field of music. We wish her the best that life can bring in her future endeavors.



Congratulations Lauren!



St. Ann's Vestry Synopsis

"Your vestry has offered the use of the Parish Hall to the Red Cross for an emergency blood drive."
Will advise if date and time should they use our parish.

Next VESTRY meeting TBD

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 county 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



Honor our Mothers on May 10, 2020

The Final Word 

Easter Day – “Not Transactional, But Transformational” by The Rev. Stephanie Chase Bradbury, Interim Priest , St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church

..... we learn things: by watching our parents model behavior, watching others, getting lessons from someone, reading a book, or watching YouTube. But what about life? How do we learn to live life well? What sources or strategies do we look to teach us tried and true best practices? As Christians, the obvious answer for us is the Bible, especially as expressed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And there are two points I'd like to make about this, both of which grounded in the truth that what scripture and Jesus teach is not transactional, but transformational.

.... is that we are not punished for our sins, but by our sins. When Jesus says, “love your neighbor,” there is no unspoken phrase which says, “or else I am going to send you to hell when you die!” Jesus is saying just what he is saying, “love your neighbor.” Period. This is a tried and true best practice for a life well lived. There is no implied transaction that if you don't do what God tells you, that he is going to punish you. That God is keeping a cosmic score card on your behavior and that if you don't measure up, watch out! That is a transaction, and it is not how God works. Rather, when Jesus says, “love your neighbor” or he advocates a life of humility, and gratitude, and forgiveness, and compassion, and generosity, he is trying to help us. God is seeking our transformation. Both by telling us these things, and modeling them himself throughout his life, Jesus is teaching us how to live lives of joy and meaning. It's like the owner's manual of your car. If you want to know how to care for the car, do what it says, get the oil changed, and the brake pads replaced, and so on.

The Bible is like an owner's manual. It is not transactional, telling us to obey God or we will be sent to hell, it is transformational, telling us to obey God, because these best practices are what will bring about joy and meaning. And by NOT doing them, we will create our own hell.

.....The great irony is many Christians work very hard to keep up appearances that they are without sin or flaws, fearing a transactional God who will reject them. When it is only through acknowledging our shortcomings, and allowing death of the ego, and humiliation and imperfection, that resurrection is able to occur! This is transformational. Christianity is not about right belief, a head thing, it is about a transformation of consciousness. Over time, after enough experiences of this, we come to see we need not fear anything.....

The above is part of a sermon given at our son's church in Massachusetts on Easter. It is used with her approval. [The entire service from where the sermon was given is found at this link.](#) Gary Zurn

CHURCH TERMS: Vine and Branches – The vine represents Christ and the branches, His followers. John 15:5. The symbol is a popular one in ecclesiastical embroidery and carving. The vine with small shields on the branches represents Christ and the Disciples. Each shield bears the symbol of a disciple.



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Afton, New York 13730

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AND ACTION

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Wardens: Dan Vail
Tracey Tallmadge

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

