

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

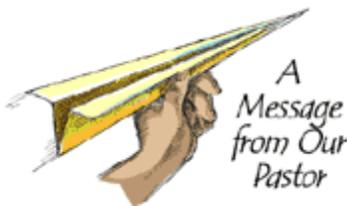
The Newsletter of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Afton, NY

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



Hey folks! It is September! And we are faced with another major hurdle in finding “normal” again – at least all of us who have any connection with schools. From Pre-K through 12 and on through college - parents, students, teachers, caregivers and everyone who cares about all those folks are all faced with an incredible amount of stress going into September (and earlier for those associated with

college).

Anxiety because of this next unknown is almost palpable. As I thought on this thing, something occurred to me and I hope it helps. Prior to having in-person Communion again, I had a great deal of anxiety because of the many unknowns. Of course, there was the anxiety at meeting together in person again, but beyond that I was also concerned with how much the service itself must change to accommodate the circumstances.

But now I have had 3 services – 2 outdoor Communion services and an indoor Baptism. Yes, the anxiety is still quite fresh, but I have learned a few things. First and foremost, I have to say it again, I am a pretty healthy person but doing a service in hot weather with a mask on is incredibly physically challenging. Surprisingly, it is even more challenging than doing a brisk walk with a mask on. I think it is because in a service, I have to breath very deep to project my voice and speak loudly. Even a brisk walk does not require that much deep breathing. But there is also profound joy at being together again in person and sharing Communion together. Oddly enough, the 3 experiences of worshipping together again in person have also brought me to a fuller appreciation of our Zoom prayer services.

All of which is to say, there is great value in both meeting in person and virtually. I would like to find a way to continue in both modes. I have heard from a few folks but would like to hear from more of you. Can we find a good way to continue and balance the two different ways of being together? And getting back to school opening, I would like to suggest we wait until the end of September before we have more frequent in person gatherings. Thank you and 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)						
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel	
Sept 6		Exodus 12:1-14	Psalm 149	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20	
Sept 13		Exodus 14:19-31	Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11,20-21	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35	
Sept 20		Exodus 16:2-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16	
Sept 27		Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32	
Oct 4		Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Psalm 19	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46	



Altar Duty for the month of September is Pat Tucker 639-1984. 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 September 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
Thomas
George
Eileen
Linda
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, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.



Birthdays

Anniversaries

9/13 TONI WELLER
9/15 FATHER RALPH
9/16 CINDY JOHNSON
9/19 CALVIN TALLMADGE
9/26 DENISE WIEBER

9/22 MILTON&MARISA HARDING

9/30 TOM & BETTY VAIL

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

Labor Day — September 7, 2020



Patriot Day — September 11, 2020

National Grandparents Day — September 13, 2020



First day of Autumn — September 22, 2020



Some Church Vocabulary

CHURCH TERMS: Candelabra - A branched holder accommodating three, five, or seven candles, representing the Trinity, the five wounds of Christ, and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit or the church, respectively. The Jews call the seven branched candelabra the "Menorah," representing Old Testament worship.



St. Ann's Vestry Synopsis

No August meeting

However here is an update on the below 1. LED Lighting from Tom

The upgrade of lighting for the Church and Parish Hall, replacing all incandescent fixtures with LED fixtures, was completed on August 24th. This program is supported by NYSE&G and is 74% paid through the small business energy efficiency program. The monthly energy saving should be significant and the amount of light output is increased in the process.

1. 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.



VARIOUS

From the Afton F. F. W. post #3529: Dear Parishioners of St. Ann’s: Our V. F. W. wants to thank you for your donation to our building fund. It’s greatly appreciated. From Commander, John Brooks.

The Sight & Sound theater will be presenting “Queen Esther” on September 4th. Go to “Sight & Sound TV on the internet to access their website for additional information. The Sight & Sound theater is based in Lancaster, PA. If you have not watched one of their productions you will find them spectacular. It is typically shown on channel #260 on Dish.

Fr. David has asked everyone to let him know, by phone, text or e mail your thoughts on restarting church services. If you have not participated in our Sunday morning “Zoom” service, held starting at 9:00 a.m. why not give it a try. Yes, it is different than what we are used to but has been going well. Try it, you might like it.

“Thank you!!” to all who have continued their pledges during these interesting times. Even though we are not holding regular services in the church building, the expenses still continue. Again, a sincere thank you.



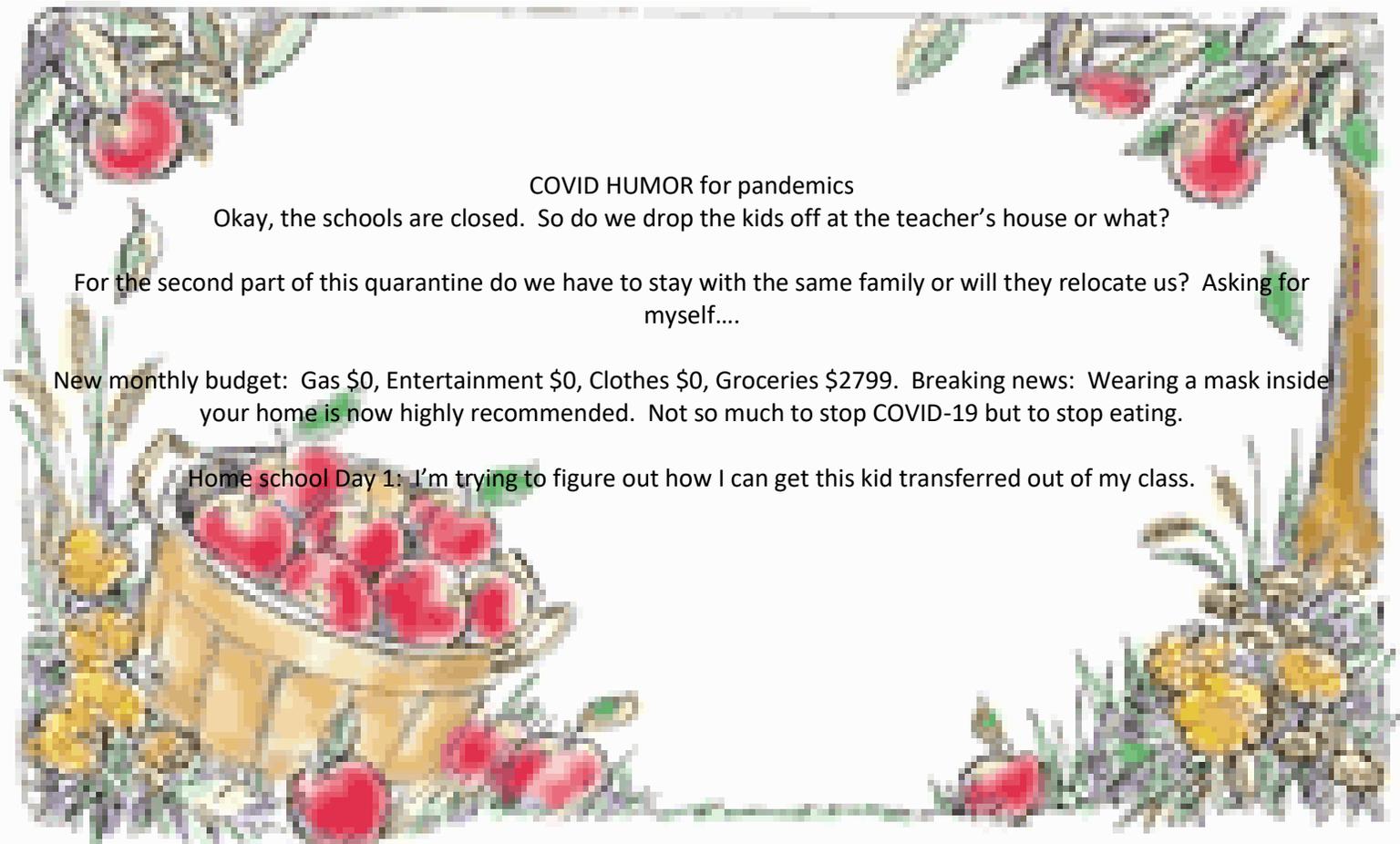
COVID HUMOR for pandemics

Okay, the schools are closed. So do we drop the kids off at the teacher’s house or what?

For the second part of this quarantine do we have to stay with the same family or will they relocate us? Asking for myself....

New monthly budget: Gas \$0, Entertainment \$0, Clothes \$0, Groceries \$2799. Breaking news: Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to stop COVID-19 but to stop eating.

Home school Day 1: I’m trying to figure out how I can get this kid transferred out of my class.



A Doubter's Blessings

Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29

"The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel"

For some people, believing comes easily. Somebody tells them what's true, and they readily accept it. But for many of us, skepticism runs deep, and claims of the miraculous are, well, hard to swallow. So we approach religion cautiously, not wanting to fall for any tricks or buy into any fables. "I'm going to need some solid evidence before I put stock in that story!" we say.

If that is how you approach claims of the supernatural, then you've got a friend in Thomas. He earned the title "Doubting Thomas" by his unwillingness to merely accept the testimonies of his fellow disciples when they told him they had seen the risen Savior.

To Thomas's credit, he was a skeptic (one who doubts), but not a cynic (someone who scoffs at spiritual ideas). He didn't rule out the possibility that his friends were right, but he said, "Unless I see the nail marks in (Jesus') hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe"

But then, importantly, he hung around the places where that divine encounter would most likely happen. Jesus was more than willing to meet him halfway. The One who had bled and died suddenly showed up alive in the room with Thomas. That got Thomas's attention! He was probably shaking in his sandals, not only because Jesus was alive but because Thomas had been so hesitant to believe. Rather than expressing anger, Jesus gently encouraged him to look at his hands and to touch the wound in his side.

That was good enough for Thomas. He did not need to investigate further or ask any more questions. Abruptly and wholeheartedly, Thomas turned from skeptic to Christ-follower. He accepted not only the reality of Jesus' resurrection but also the truth about who Jesus claimed to be. Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" And get this: Jesus actually blesses people everywhere who, like Thomas, are willing to ask hard questions, search for real answers, and have the courage to follow the facts all the way back to him. "Because you have seen me, you have believed," Jesus said in verse 29. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

To doubt is human. But God's blessings await those who approach their doubts with diligent investigation, a sincere search for truth, and a willingness to seek the One who showed that he was the truth.



The Final Word 

Character: Deuteronomy 7:6 – *“For you are a holy people, who belong to the Lord your God. Of all the people on earth, the Lord your God has chosen you to be his own special treasure”*

God’s people are set apart—holy, dedicated, chosen. Above all other people on earth, we have special privileges and responsibilities. Now that we are his, he expects us to act in a way that is distinctive, that causes unbelievers to notice our commitment to what is good, true, and right. Godly character is godlikeness. As we imitate the character traits of God, we certainly will be distinctive in this world. In what ways are you effectively imitating God? In what areas could you improve. NLT-GEZ

St. Ann’s Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 22
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AND ACTION

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

