

## 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



### Pastor's Message for Lent

Hey folks! It's February! The days are getting longer, more and more folks are getting vaccinated and once again we prepare for another Lent.

Naturally enough, this year's Ash Wednesday services will be quite different. No Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and no in-person gathering for imposition of ashes. That's the bad news...

Fortunately, however, there's an aspect of Ash Wednesday that has been practiced for years by many and is easily adapted to social distancing – Ashes to Go! It's really simple – drive up to the priest, share a short prayer, get ashes imposed, then off on your merry way (or, since it will be Lent, off on your solemn and reflective way). I'm quite certain that's what we'll do during the day.

Then, 7pm in the evening, we'll gather online to pray the Ash Wednesday service together.

My plan is to spend ½ hour at each parish so folks can drive up and pray and receive ashes:

St Paul's from 12noon – 12:30pm

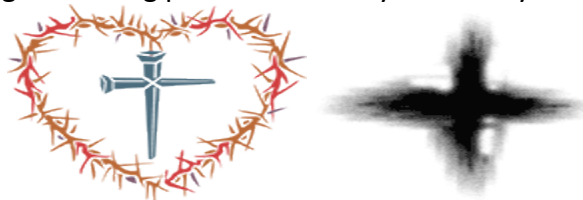
St Ann's from 1:00pm – 1:30pm

Zion from 2:00pm – 2:30pm

It's also been a tradition with the 3 parishes that during Lent we have some Lenten program, usually with soup and sandwiches and some sort of video program. Of course, we can't meet in person, and there are copyright issues with sharing videos online, so I would like to continue something that we began late last year on Wednesday evenings – Bible Study, reading the upcoming Sunday readings.

It's been a fun little group but there's always room for more. You can consider it your Lenten discipline for this year! So, go ahead and keep eating chocolate and join us on Zoom for Bible Study! If you haven't been getting the Zoom email invitations, first of all, I apologize, but please email me at [dhanselm@gmail.com](mailto:dhanselm@gmail.com) and I'll make sure to add you to the list.

And may you know God's healing and loving presence this day and always! Blessing upon blessing 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 Nov 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 December 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 have not 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. [Bettom415@aol.com](mailto:Bettom415@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
<b>Feb 17</b>	<b>Ash Wed</b>	<b>See Father</b>	<b>David's</b>	<b>Message</b>	<b>Above</b>	
Lectionary (Year B)						
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel	
<b>Feb 7</b>		Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-12, 21c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39	
<b>Feb 14</b>		2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9	
<b>Feb 17</b>		Joel 2:1-2,12-17	Psalm 103 or 103:8-14	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6,16-21	
<b>Feb 21</b>		Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-9	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15	
<b>Feb 28</b>		Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:22-30	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38	
<b>Mar 7</b>		Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22	



Altar Duty for the month of February is Tracey Tallmadge 343-1301. 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 February 2021

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/three months unless updated.

SHORT TERM

Raevin  
Hailey  
Thomas  
George  
Eileen  
Anne  
Anonymous  
Riley  
Tonya  
Nancy  
Chad  
Bonnie  
Jerry Matthews  
Jason  
Pat

LONG TERM

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. Matthews Church  
St. Peter's Church  
Carol  
Peter  
Joyce  
Mya  
Holly  
Clifford  
Richard  
Nate  
Marion  
Amaya  
Rachel  
Burdette  
Bill



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

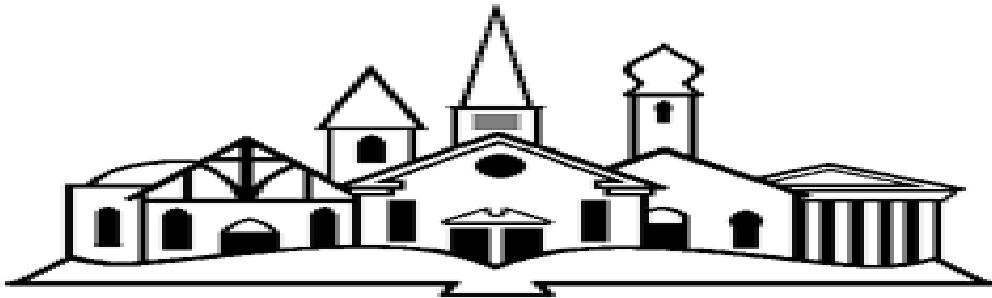
*2/2 Tom Vail*

*2/7 Marion Diehl*

*2/18 Carol Tarvin*

### Anniversaries

*Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary.  
Call 607-343-1301 or email [ctallmadg@aol.com](mailto:ctallmadg@aol.com)*



**CHURCH TERMS:** Ash Wednesday - The name is taken from the custom of putting ashes on the forehead on this first day of Lent. The date depends on the date of Easter, before which it is the forty-sixth day.

**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.



*"Greatness is not found in possessions, power, position, or prestige. It is discovered in goodness, humility, service, and character."*

William Arthur Ward via Apple Seeds

*"There is much that is wrong with our Christian witness, but the thing that is most wrong is the absence of joy."* William C. Nelson

*"The secret to living well and longer is: eat half, walk double, laugh triple, and love without measure."* Tibetan proverb



January 17, 2021

1. Outreach was designated to go to the Binghamton Rescue Mission. A thank you was received from the General Theological Seminary for our Christmas donation.
2. The Diocese is working on a revision of the format for the Diocesan Convention for this year. It was suggested that we start thinking about delegates.
3. The State of NY is looking for locations for vaccinations. Our facility is too small for their needs.
4. Ash Wednesday and imposition of ashes was discussed. It will probably be something like our Christmas Eve service. Fr. David will advise as soon as he has the details worked out. Gary will put on the website when plans are firmed up. Advised Fr. David that there is free software available for putting together zoom services.
5. Treasurer's report and proposed budget for 2021 were reviewed and approved. A big thank you to all who have continued to maintain their financial support of St. Ann's during these "interesting" times.

### *Sailing through the Storms of Life*

Jesus answered, "Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!" Then he stood up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly all was calm.

**Matthew 8:26 NLT**

Sometimes the seas of life are calm and sometimes they are not. When we find ourselves beset by the inevitable storms of life, we may sense that all is lost—but if we imagine, even for a moment, that all hope is gone, we are mistaken.

The Bible is not ambiguous: it promises that God will remain steadfast, even during our darkest hours. God's Word makes it clear that He is with us always, on good days and bad days. He never leaves our side, and He never stops loving us.

So, if you are feeling buffeted by the winds and the waves of life, don't despair. God has promised to protect you now and forever. And upon that promise, you can always depend.

Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate as we voyage through our life. 'Tis the set of the soul that decides the goal and not the storm or the strife.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

A transcript of the statement follows: by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry:

And now in the name of our loving, liberating, and life-giving God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

In another time of national crisis, another time of danger for our nation, in 1865 on March the fourth, Abraham Lincoln concluded his second inaugural address with these words:

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

Lincoln knew in that moment, in the moment of a national crisis, a moment of great danger, that such a moment was a moment of decision, when a nation, when a people must decide who shall we be? What kind of nation, what kind of people shall we be? A hundred years later, Martin Luther King faced the same reality. Who shall we be? The civil rights movement was waning. The great victories that had been won had been won. And yet now questions of poverty and economic despair and disparities raised an awesome specter on the nation. We were at war.

We were at war in another country, but there was war on our streets. The nation was deeply divided. Cities burned. There were riots. Riots at national conventions of political parties. The future of the nation was in question, and it was at that time that Dr. King realized that in moments of danger, a decision must be made. And he titled his last book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*. I believe as he believed, as Abraham Lincoln believed, as I believe you believe, that we must choose community. Chaos is not an option. Community is our only hope.

The truth is Dr. King spoke often of all that he did and labored for was for the purpose of realizing as much of the Beloved Community of God as it is possible on this earth. He spoke of Beloved Community, the Bible, the New Testament, Jesus spoke of the kingdom or the reign of God. Jesus taught us to pray, and to work, and to labor for that Beloved Community, that reign of God's love in our time and in our world, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth just as it is in heaven. Those are our marching orders from Jesus himself.

I am a follower of Jesus of Nazareth because I believe that his way of love and his way of life is the way of life for us all. I believe that unselfish, sacrificial love, love that seeks the good and the welfare and the well-being of others, as well as the self, that this is the way that can lead us and guide us to do what is just, to do what is right, to do what is merciful. It is the way that can lead us beyond the chaos to community.

Now, I know full well that this may to some sound naive, to others, idealistic, and I understand that. And yet, I want to submit that the way of love that leads to beloved community is the only way of hope for humanity. Consider the alternative. The alternative is chaos, not community. The alternative is the abyss of anarchy, of chaos, of hatred, of bigotry, of violence, and that alternative is unthinkable. We have seen nightmarish visions of that alternative. We saw it in Charlottesville just a few years ago when neo-Nazis marched through the streets of an American city, chanting, "Jews will not replace us." That alternative is unthinkable. We saw it in Minneapolis-St. Paul, where a public safety officer knelt with his knee on the neck of another human being. A child of God, just like he was, and snuffed out the breath of life that God gave him. The alternative is unthinkable.

And we have seen it this past Wednesday, when a monument to democracy, the Capitol of the United States of America was desecrated and violated with violence by vandals. Lives were lost. A nation was wounded. Democracy itself was threatened. My brothers and sisters, this way of love that Jesus taught us when he said, "Love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself." This way of love that Moses taught

even before Jesus. This way of unselfish, sacrificial love, it is the way to redeem a nation, to save a world. It is the way of hope for us all. But do not make the mistake of thinking that I speak of a sentimental and emotional love.

Jesus spoke of love most consistently the closer he got to the cross. This way of love is the way of sacrifice, the way of unselfishness, the way of selflessness, that seeks the good of the other as well as the self. And that is the way of the cross, which is the way of life. And if you don't believe me, ask another apostle of love. Not Dr. King, not Abraham Lincoln, ask Archbishop Tutu. Ask one who has given his life for the cause of God's love in the way of Jesus. Ask him; ask Nelson Mandela in your mind. Ask them what love looks like. They knew that the way of love was the only way that could guide South Africa from what could have become a bloody nightmare and civil war to the way that could build a nation.

And it was not sentimental. Remember truth and reconciliation. They had to face painful truths. They had to do what was just and what was merciful. They had to do what the prophet Micah said that the motivation and the guide was love. Archbishop Tutu said this:

Love, forgiving, and being reconciled to our enemies or our loved ones is not about pretending that things are other than they are. It is not about patting one another on the back or turning a blind eye to the wrong. True reconciliation exposes the awfulness of the abuse, the hurt, the truth. It could even sometimes make things worse for a while. It is a risky undertaking but, in the end, it is worthwhile, because in the end only an honest confrontation with reality can bring forth real healing. Superficial reconciliation only brings superficial healing.

This is the way of love that can heal our hurts, that can heal our land, that can help us to become one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. So, I would ask you to do two things. I'm asking you to make a commitment, a renewed commitment, to live the way of love as Jesus has taught us and to do it by making a commitment to go out and bless somebody. Bless somebody you disagree with. Bless somebody you agree with. But to go out and bless somebody by helping somebody along the way. Go out and bless somebody by listening to their story and their life. To go out and be an instrument of God's peace, an agent of God's love.

And then I would ask you to pray. Pray for this nation but pray with some specificity. Pray that we may have the wisdom and the courage to love.

God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy pow'r.  
Crown thine ancient church's story,  
bring her bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour

– Harry Emerson Fosdick, God of Grace, and God of Glory

With malice toward none, with charity toward all. With firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right. Let us strive to finish the work, the work that we are in. To bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan. To do all which may achieve and cherish, a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

God love you. God bless you. And may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.





The Final Word

**Adversity: Jonah 2:2** – *“God listens to every prayer we offer and responds to every one, sometimes saying no, sometimes saying yes, and sometimes saying wait. From the belly of the big fish in the depths of the sea, Jonah cried out, and God heard. No place is too remote for God. God listens and he cares.”*

NLT-GEZ

**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

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

