

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 and Blessed New Year! We've made it to 2021!

To start off with, I want to thank everyone who was able to participate in our Christmas Eve events – from the blessing of the host to the distribution and to the evening Zoom service of Lessons and Carols. It was not the Christmas we ever wanted to have, but together we made it the best Christmas we could safely, faithfully have.

But as we begin 2021, I have got to ask you to remember back to a time when you found yourself in a really, really long line. Was it a long line waiting to get into a concert venue? Was it a long line waiting to get into a football or baseball game? How many of us waited in line as the Harry Potter books had their midnight releases?! Along those same lines, if I go grocery shopping at the wrong time, I seem to get caught in lines so slow I am certain my ice cream will melt long before I can get it home.

I think every one of us at some point or another in our lives have found ourselves in a really long line. What did you do while you were in line? How did you handle the frustration? Did you just get angrier and angrier or did you find some positive way to deal with the seemingly interminable wait?

I must ask because (in case you have not guessed where I'm going with this yet) we're currently in one of the most important "waiting lines" of our lives – waiting for enough people to get the Covid-19 vaccine so that we can get our lives back to some sort of normal.

Looking back at my message for last January, I had asked if anyone still made New Year's resolutions. Well, I hope this year we all firmly resolve to be as patient as we need to be so that we can continue to care for one another.

Way back when our COVID-19 restrictions first began, I shared what I thought was the best, wisest advice – "if we do this right, people will say we over-reacted. If we do it wrong, we'll all pay a heavy price". We are getting tired of restrictions. "Pandemic fatigue" is the technical term for it. And we see that we are still in a long line, but we also see a light at the end of the tunnel. Please, let us remain patient. This is how we will show our love and caring for one another. Amen.

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 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 B)						
Jan 3		Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalms 84 or 84:1-8	Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a		Matthew 2:13-15,19-23
Jan 10		Genesis 1:1-5	Psalms 29	Acts 19:1-7		Mark 1:4-11
Jan 17		1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)	Psalms 139:1-5, 12-17	1 Corinthians 6:12-20		John 1:43-51
Jan 24		Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalms 62:6-14	1 Corinthians 7:29-31		Mark 1:14-20
Jan 31		Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalms 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13		Mark 1:21-28
Feb 7		Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalms 147:1-12, 21c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23		Mark 1:29-39



Altar Duty for the month of January is Carol Cimini 693-2907 and Melrose Kelly 639-1090. 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 January 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

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.

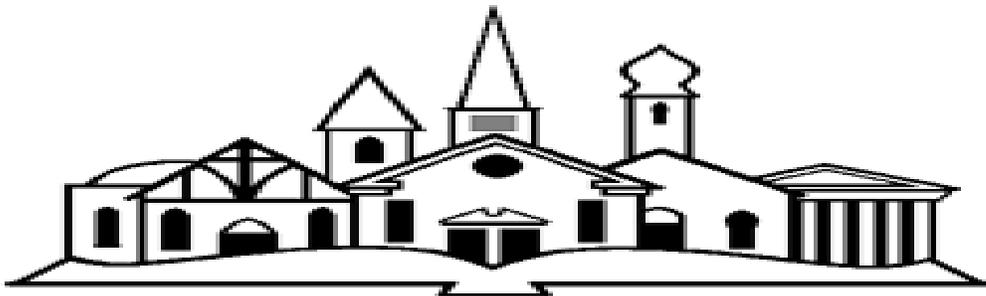


Birthdays

*4 Briella Harding
13 Peter Vail
15 Tyler Wright
20 Ron Sherman
27 Cindy Sherman*

Anniversaries

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



CHURCH TERMS: Epiphany - Greek, "to show forth."

This season begins on January 6 and commemorates the showing forth of the Infant Jesus to the Wise Men, the first Gentiles to worship Him. Depending

on the date of Easter, there may be as many as six Sundays or as few as one in the Epiphany Season.



Vestry Hi-lites from 12/20/20

1. Meeting was held on "zoom." Outreach for December was designated to go to the General Theological Seminary, including any Christmas donations. It was voted to "tith" a recently received gift to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.
2. The proposed Christmas Eve service plans were discussed. Communion will be available from 2 to 3PM at St. Ann's and a "zoom" service of lessons and carols will be held at 7PM.
3. A brief stewardship report was given. Many thanks to all who have maintained their financial support during these "interesting" times.
4. Voted to continue our membership in the Afton Chamber of Commerce.
5. Thank you letter from The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem was read, thanking St. Ann's for our contributions to their work in the Middle East.
6. Assessment and pledge request from the Diocese were acted on. St. Ann's is meeting both of the suggested minimums for these two items. The pledge amount, to the Diocese, has been increased annually for the past 20 years.
7. Fr. David thanked the vestry for his Christmas gift.
8. Treasurer's report from Gary is positive.



A Prayer for Parents

Oh God, make me a better parent. It is the most important job in the world and one for which there is no prior training. Help me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say and to respond to their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting and contradicting them. Help me to be as courteous to them as I would have them be to me. Give me the courage to confess my sins against my children and the generosity of spirit to ask them for forgiveness when I know I have done wrong. Forbid that I should laugh at their mistakes or resort to shame and ridicule. Oh Lord, reduce the meanness in me. May I cease to nag. When I am out of sorts, help me please, to hold my tongue and keep my temper under control. Blind me to the insignificant shortcomings of my children and help me to see the good things they do. Give me a ready word for honest praise. Make me ever mindful that they need the nurturing that comes with encouragement and appreciation for their small successes.

Help me remember that my children are only children so that I may not expect from them the judgment of adults. Allow me not to rob them of the opportunity to wait on themselves, think for themselves, and to make their own mistakes. Forbid I should ever punish them as a means of ridding myself of anger and frustration. Help me to exercise reason and control. May I grant them all wishes that are sensible and give me the courage to withhold a privilege when I know it might do them harm.

Make me fair and just, considerate and companionable, so they will have genuine esteem, respect, and affection for me. Make me fit to be loved and imitated by my children, for this is the greatest compliment of all. Amen. Author unknown~~~

A 17th Century Prayer from a Church in London on aging

“Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody’s affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others’ pains but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening of cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with -- but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen

In Praise of Hymn Singing

There is something mysteriously fortifying about the act of singing together. Oral and chest cavities vibrating in rhythmic unison – which is all corporate singing is – creates a peculiar companionship among people who, apart from their creed, may have little else in common. You might barely know the lady in the pew next to you, but when you sing a common song or hymn together, she may as well be your auntie.

It is one of the tragedies of modern Western life that people so infrequently sign together. We may sing in the car or the shower, but mostly we listen as soloists gurgle the nonsense lines of pop songs. Somehow, with the rise of radio and recorded songs in the last century, we stopped singing together.

Unlike many other forms of decline, this one stands a chance of reversal. Once we’re permitted to remove our masks and gather for a ballgame, we can sing “The Star Spangled Banner” as the national hymn it is. All together now.

An excerpt of the editorial “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” by Barton Swaim in the Wall Street Journal, 7/3/2020

The True Meaning of Christmas

When we uncap the sunshine that is bottled up in the many words that relate to the Christmas season, we discover that the light that streams forth illuminates centuries of human history and customs.

The word *Christmas* comes from the Old English *Christes maesse*, meaning “the festival mass of Christ.” *Christmas* is a fine example of a disguised compound, a word formed from two independent morphemes that have become so closely welded together that their individual identities have been lost. Christmas is the only religious holiday to have received official and secular sanction by all the states. The word *holiday* is another disguised compound, descending from the Old English *haligdaeg*, or “holy day.” With the change in pronunciation has come a change in meaning so that holidays, such as Independence Day and Labor Day are not necessarily holy.

The name *Christ* is a translation of the Hebrew word *messiah*, “the anointed one,” rendered through the Greek as *Khristos*. *Jesus* also goes back to ancient Hebrew and the name *Yeshua* (Joshua) which is explained as Jah (or Jahveh, i.e., Jehova) is salvation.” We learn about Jesus through the Gospels; *gospel* is yet another disguised compound, from the Old English *god* (good) and *spel* (news). The four Gospels spread the “good news” of the life and work of

Christ. No surprise then that the four men who wrote the Gospels are called *evangelists*, from the Greek *euaggelion*, which also means “good News.”

The babe was born in *Bethlehem*, a Hebrew word variously interpreted as meaning “house of bread or food.” The Christ child was laid in a *manger*, “to eat.” Why? Because Jesus’ crib was a large wooden box that had served as a trough for feeding cattle.

(To be continued)

Puzzle!

Complete each saying below. Then place the words from those blanks in the correct order to complete Proverbs 23:4.

1. When the going gets tough, the tough _____ going.
2. People who live in glass houses should _____ throw stones.
3. If the shoe fits, _____ it.
4. “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is _____ to enter the kingdom of God.”
5. Good things come _____ those who wait.
6. When in Rome, _____ as the Romans do.
7. Don’t wear _____ your welcome.
8. If you want something done right, do it _____ .

Write the unscrambled proverb here:

PROVERBS 23:4

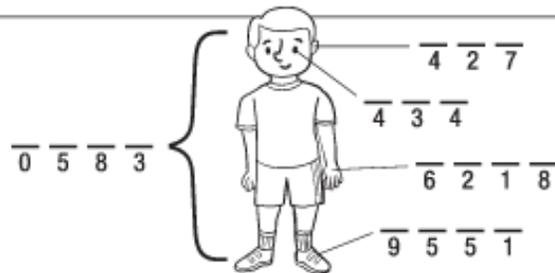
Answer: Do not wear yourself out to get rich. Proverbs 23:4



WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God’s purposes.

Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part’s number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.



Now if the _____²⁰ should say, “Because I am not a _____¹⁷, I do not belong to the _____¹⁶.” ... And if the _____¹³ should say, “Because I am not an _____¹¹, I do not belong to the _____¹⁶,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the _____¹⁶. If the whole _____¹⁶ were an _____¹¹, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole _____¹⁶ were an _____¹³, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one _____¹⁶.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body – 16, eye – 16, ear – 11, hand – 13, foot – 17, foot – 20

The Power of Prayer

I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:4 KJV

Prayer is a powerful tool for communicating with our Creator. It's an opportunity to commune with the Giver of all things good. Prayer helps us find strength for today and hope for the future. Yet because we are busy people living in a demanding world, we don't always take the time to carve out meaningful moments with God. And when we neglect our prayer lives, we rob ourselves of power and the peace that flows from the loving heart of our Father in heaven.

Prayer has the power to change lives, including yours. So make a regular early morning (or other appropriate time) appointment with the Creator and keep it. Then, as the day unfolds, continue your conversation with God. When you do, you'll sense His peace, you'll gain His perspective, and you'll receive His power. There will be no power in our lives apart from prayer.



The Final Word

Worry: Philippians 4:6 – “Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything...”

There is little in life we have less control over than the weather; Yet have you ever found yourself worrying about the meteorological future? Probably more picnics are ruined by worry than by rain! Jesus encourages us not to worry about that which we cannot control or about that which is not important. Worry instead, he says, about your priorities and the condition of your soul. When you find yourself overcome with worry, take a careful look at the priorities of your heart. When God is firmly established at the center of your focus and desires, worry loses its grip on our lives. 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

