

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

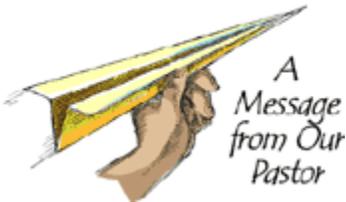
The Newsletter of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Afton, NY

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



Hello folks! For this month's newsletter I want to focus on an opportunity we have in the fall that I'm really excited about. Pastor Becky Drebert at St Peter's, Bainbridge is forming a group to participate in one of the Episcopal Church's antiracism programs called "Sacred Ground". An overview, right from the website (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/about/>):

- Sacred Ground is a sensitive, prayerful resource that creates space for difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism.
- It invites participants to walk back through history to peel away the layers that brought us to today, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story.
- It holds as a guiding star the vision of beloved community – where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God, where we weep at one another's pain and seek one another's flourishing.

Sacred Ground will require a commitment to 10 meetings. Each meeting is approximately 90 minutes long. Precise scheduling has yet to be determined. Each meeting is called a "dialogue circle" and for very good reason – after educating ourselves with a combination of reading the history of racism and watching documentaries, our gatherings will be conversations concerning what we've learned and drawing on our own life experiences.

This, from some of the material I've read puts it well: "Making a commitment to the full 10 sessions is a powerful sign that we are engaging in what is actually a lifelong journey. It took centuries, and one's own entire lifetime, for harmful racial patterns to be put in place; it takes an investment of time and attention to undo the internal and external harms."

Nearly all the material (articles and documentaries) will be provided to each participant, but everyone will need to buy or have available to them 2 books – *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving, and *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Dr. Howard Thurman.

What an exciting opportunity! And many, many thanks to Pastor Becky for taking on the responsibility of facilitating it! More information will follow. Blessings to you all!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

The 1st & 3rd Sundays are In-Church Services with HC. Every service is available via "ZOOM" If you are not currently receiving email Zoom invites, then please send your email 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 B)						
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel	
May 2		Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:24-30	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8	
May 9		Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	John 15:9-17	Acts 10:44-48 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17 Psalm 98	
May 16		Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1	John 17:6-19	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19 Psalm 1	
May 23		Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:25-35, 37	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 Psalm 104:25-35, 37	
May 30		Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	John 3:1-17	Isaiah 6:1-8 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17 Psalm 29	
Jun 6		1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15)	Psalm 138	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35	



Altar Duty for the month of May is Pat Tucker 639-1948. 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.

Welcoming everyone to walk through our doors on the journey to Christ

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away - and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

~John 10: 11-18 NIV

The May services are as follows:

May 2 – in-church service HC and Zoom

May 9 – Zoom service

May 16- in-church service HC and Zoom

May 23- Zoom service

May 30- Zoom service

June 6 - in-church service HC and Zoom

May 9, 2021



St. Ann's Prayer List for May 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. *"We are trying to be sure that our prayer list is as updated as possible and don't want to remove someone that should be on it."* 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
Thomas
George
Eileen
Anne
Anonymous
Riley
Nancy
Jerry Matthews
Jason
Pat
Ralph
Tracey

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
Rachel
Burdette
Bill Dakota
Bonnie Hailey Katy



Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins –
Pete and Carol Vail
Joyce Whitney
Marion Diehl
Grace Affuso
Bonnie MacPherson

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

5/3 Adleigh Noone

5/5 Pat Tucker

5/11 Betty Vail

5/20 Kathy Vail

5/22 Allyson Vail

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

The United Thank Offering Prayer

Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy: accept we pray these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The Blue Box Prayer

Almighty God, I give you praise
for blessing me in many ways.

Create in me a grateful heart
and with this gift a blessing
start. Amen.

The United Thank Offering spring ingathering will be May 23/2021. The UTO is one way that Episcopalians show their faithfulness to God's mission.



Reminder from Wardens:
Vestry meets every third Sunday after church service and on Zoom.

When his eyes began to give him trouble, a Czech man went to an ophthalmologist in Prague. The doctor showed the patient the eye chart, displaying the letters CVKPNWXSCZ. "Can you read that?" the doctor asked. "Can I read it?" the Czech replied. "I dated his sister!"



CHURCH TERMS: : ORIGINAL SIN – Original sin is the sin we have inherited as a result of the fall of Adam and Eve which has brought total corruption of our whole human nature. Romans 5 12-21. It is an inborn tendency to be otherwise than God wishes us to be.



Vestry Hi-lites for April 2021

1. Vestry met Sunday, April 18, after the communion service and on zoom. Outreach for April was designated for Mercy House in Endicott. Convention was discussed. One volunteer for delegate. Need one more. It is expected that this year's convention will be held in a Zoom format.
2. Discussion on resuming "in church" services. Decided to have "in church" services on 1st. and 3rd. Sundays and zoom services on the other Sundays.
3. Our application to the Diocese for a grant for equipment for zoom services has been approved and received. Gary to purchase the equipment at Staples through the church's account. Suggested that we consider establishing our own zoom and Facebook accounts.
4. Small church zoom meeting to be April 26th. via the Diocese. It is for any Parish with 25 or less average attendance. Registration is necessary and may be done through the Diocese. Anyone can attend. Fr. David to send out a reminder. Attendance was encouraged.
5. Received a thank you card from GiGi's for our March contribution.
6. Financial report to the Diocese has been completed and sent.
7. Financial report reviewed. We are "holding our own" thanks to the generous support of parishioners.

FORWARD DAY BY DAY THROUGH THE YEARS:

Revelation 7:16-17. *They will hunger nor more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.* We are all members of two families. We belong to our earthly family. Even in the most wonderful earthly family we encounter brokenness, grief, hurt, and regret. Because of free will, illness, speech without thought, sin and death, we suffer. This is the price we pay for being human, and even with the grace of God we cannot avoid some of these experiences.

But if we are Christians, then we have another family in which we are all the children of God. There is no brokenness, sin, unforgiveness, or pain. Within God's loving arms there is no death. Jesus, our shepherd, leads us to springs of living water—and God wipes away all tears from our eyes. In this family of God, there is a perfection which comes only by being in his presence. — year 1976

An Easter Reflection,

Where did the Pharaohs go?

By Cal Samra, Editor of The Joyful Newsletter

Many years ago, when I was a young know-it-all- who-knew-nothing-at-all newspaper reporter, I visited Egypt and, like many tourists, was awed by the pyramids built as tombs for the Pharaohs and their consorts. There were 119 massive Egyptian pyramids constructed from 3150B.C. by thousands of Egyptian laborers who somehow moved and fashioned stones weighing tons.

Some archaeologists have suggested that the pyramids were designed as a type of “resurrection machine” to expedite the rich and powerful Pharaohs on their journey to the afterlife, to “magically launch the deceased Pharaoh’s soul directly into the abode of the Egyptian gods.” But no one ever saw a Pharaoh rise from the dead. Down through the centuries, there never was recorded an eye-witness to a risen pharaoh. Later, I visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built in 335A.D. at the traditional site where Jesus was crucified and buried. There was the small Jewish tomb where Jesus was buried and then rose from the dead.

With his power and charisma, Jesus could have had riches beyond measure, overwhelming political power, his choice of anything. But he was non-political and chose poverty and celibacy. He came humbly in the form of a servant, causing many of his contemporaries to consider him a lunatic.

Here was the modest tomb of “The Great Physician,” who never attended a Hippocratic medical school, who was a poor man who never owned his own home, and never charged a fee from the many ailing people he healed. He walked everywhere, never carrying a sword on his travels, though the countryside was infested with bandits. He chose a healing ministry to serve others and, finally death on a cross to show us the glory of the Resurrection. Who but God could have done that? Years later, when I became a Christian and read the New Testament, I was awed by the many testimonials by eyewitnesses to the healings of all kinds of diseases by Jesus and his disciples. I was awed by Jesus’ continual exhortations to his followers to be joyful, even at the Last Supper, when he knew he would shortly be humiliated, whipped, beaten, speared and crucified. “I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete,” he said at the Last Supper. Who but the Messiah could talk about joy under such circumstances?

I was awed by the many eye-witness accounts of Jesus’ resurrection.

Consulting editor Dr. Paul L. Maier, a best-selling Lutheran author and pastor, described those resurrection times beautifully in his book, *The Very First Easter*.

Jesus has healed me many times. Was there ever a historical record of a pharaoh healing anybody?

The Egyptian Pharaohs were confounded – first by Moses, then by Jesus, just as our modern Pharaohs are being confounded.

Christ is Risen! Smile!



The Final Word

Wisdom: Proverbs 4: 1-10— *“My children, Listen to me. Listen to your father’s instruction. Pay attention and grow wise, for I am giving you good guidance. Don’t turn away from my teaching. For I, too, was once my father’s son, tenderly loved by my mother as an only child*

My father told me, “Take my words to heart. Follow my instructions and you will live. Learn to be wise and develop good judgment. Don’t forget or turn away from my words. Don’t turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you……”

Parents generally do all they can to meet the physical, emotional, and educational needs of their children. Proverbs suggest that the most important asset we can impart to our children is the hunger for wisdom. Unlike intelligence, personality, and talent, wisdom is not in our genetic makeup; we must learn it from God. We begin to be wise when we are reverent toward God and his Word. Parents who teach wisdom and model good judgment leave their children an inheritance that is life giving—and far more valuable than gold. 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

