

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 cannot be reached, please contact one of the wardens.

Wardens: Dan Vail: 607-240-9264 Tracey Tallmadge: 607-343-1301

Pastor's Post

The past few months have been quite emotional for me – dealing with long Covid and having Sophia go off to college among other things. I'm telling you this because I've always tried to keep balance between my heart and head, and since so much of my life recently has been heavily skewed towards the emotional pole, I've lately been trying to offset the skew by engaging my philosophical side. In other words, I'd like to share some ponderings with you this month.

Now, you might have guessed that what I've been pondering is the difficulty in balancing heart and head. In the best of times, when life is rolling along nicely, consistently and smoothly, it's pretty easy to keep our interior life in balance. Oftentimes, the interior life mirrors our exterior life, so when our exterior life becomes bumpy or troubled it's easy for our interior life to become bumpy or troubled as well.

I think we've all known folks who go to one extreme or the other – folks who seem stuck in their own heads or folks who seem to primarily respond emotionally to things that happen in life.

Since so much of my personal experience has been of folks who seem to live mostly in their heads (as I did for many years), I'll mostly speak from that perspective. Though I have known folks who've gone to the extreme of emotional living; interestingly enough, some of them have thought that emotions are somehow more “real” or “true” than thoughts, so they focus much of their life on their emotional response to things.

Both extremes are far from ideal and both extremes share much the same results - only more trouble and difficulty occur. To be sure, their internal life may seem to find some peace, but their external life – especially their relationships with others – becomes a field littered with wreckage.

Honestly, I'm not sure if Scripture provides a simple statement of what I'm saying. What I am sure is that what I've described is so much a part of our faith that much of the early Christian thought was (and still is by some) mistaken as part of various Greek ethics – sometimes Stoicism when reason seems to be focused upon or Epicureanism when mutual love is the focus. And please note, I'm radically simplifying a great deal here; Stoicism and Epicureanism run much deeper than this gross oversimplification of head versus heart.

A crucial difference does remain however, in that our faith goes so far beyond Stoicism or Epicureanism in one fundamental aspect. Our faith, as it presents to us the development of healthy relationships based on finding balance between our hearts and heads, goes beyond Greek ethical systems by assuring us that we are the product of a loving, life-giving, life-affirming, creator God.

Various Greek ethical systems presented themselves as ways to achieve the greatest happiness in a life that can present many difficulties. Our faith tells us that by living the life of faith we come to embody everything God intends for us to be AND by doing so we become God's presence in a world that has mostly forgotten its origin as an amazing gift given in love. That is, much of Greek ethics is presented as a matter of personal benefit in trying to deal with life's difficulties whereas our faith is presented primarily as working towards a right relationship with the God who created us and the community around us.

Thank you for letting me ponder a little bit, and may God's Holy Spirit, presenting itself to us as promised by Jesus Christ, find an open and welcoming home in our hearts and heads and guide us in our lives together. Amen.

St. Ann's Prayer List for **October** 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
Eileen
Anne
Pat

LONG TERM

Fr. David Hanselman
Fr. Steven White
Deacon Kay
Pastor Becky
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 Cindy
Peter Katy
Joyce Jason
Mya Dakota
Holly Bob
Clifford Hailey
Richard Joan
Nate Bobbi
Marion Thurston
Rachel Fred
Bill Barbara
Bonnie Tyler
David



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, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.*



Birthdays

10/8 Grace Affuso
10/12 Rylee Noone
10/19 Ella Parsons
10/22 Carol Cimini
10/31 Andrea DeBetta

Anniversaries

10/6 Calvin & Tracey Tallmadge

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

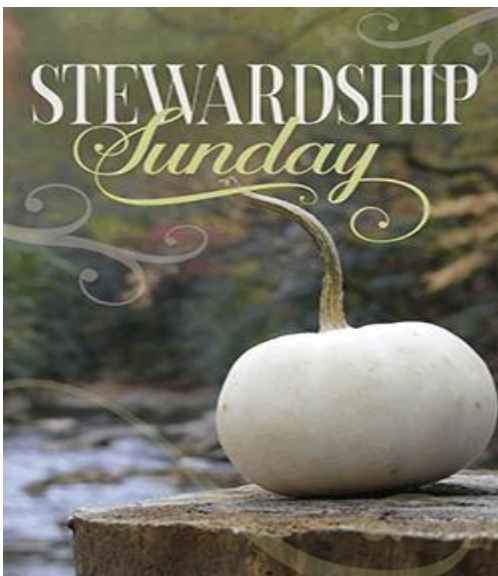


CHURCH TERMS AND SYMBOLS: - NAVE –The Latin word for “ship.” In ecclesiastical art, the church is represented as a ship sailing toward heaven. The ship’s “passengers” are the parishioners who sit in the main part of the church, the nave. It extends from the narthex to the chancel from which it is separated by a communion rail.



Vestry Hi-lites for September 19, 2021

1. All vestry members were present. Outreach: Voted to send funds to the VET center, for September and the American Civic Center for August.
2. Delegates to Convention (November 13th.) Mado Cimini and Dan Vail, alternates Denise Wieber and Judy Rettberg.
3. Annual meeting to be October 3rd. Elections for two vestry persons and one warden.
4. Christmas Eve service to start at 4:30 p.m.
5. A new camera has been purchased for the Zoom services. Noted that a second camera would be helpful and that was approved. Parish hall door is rusting and frame rotting. Approved to have Madison Vinyl replace the door with an insulated fiberglass. Our refrigerator, purchased in 1998 has crashed. Approved the purchase of a replacement from Olums' "scratch and dent."
6. Stewardship Sunday will be November 7th. Woodie offered to check into fuel oil prices to assure that our price from Economy Heating is competitive.
7. Fr. David noted that there will be a least one Baptism on November 28th and possibly two. He will switch Sundays with Communion service with Morning Prayer to be November 21st. November vestry meeting, if held, will be November 21st.
8. Chenango County counseling service is being held at the Parish Hall on Wednesdays.
9. The copier hard drive has failed and has been replaced. The yearly audit has been completed and sent to the Diocese. Financial report shows that we are holding our own, thanks be to God and the generosity of parishioners.



Stewardship Sunday:

Please note that this will be held on November 7th.

Many thanks to everyone for their continued financial support of St. Ann's.



UTO Sunday: Is typically held around All Saints Sunday. Please keep this in mind to help those less fortunate than we are. Envelopes will be enclosed with the November newsletter.



A Prescription for Panic

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7 NIV

OUR world seems to invite panic. Everywhere we turn we're met with disturbing images that cry out, "All is lost." But with God all is never lost; there is always hope.

God calls us to live above and beyond anxiety. He calls us to live by faith, not fear. He instructs us to trust Him completely, this day and forever. But sometimes trusting God is difficult, especially when we get caught up in the incessant demands of an anxious world.

When you feel anxious—and you will—return your thoughts to God's love. Then take your concerns to Him in prayer and, to the best of your ability, leave them there. Whatever "it" is, God is big enough to handle it. Let Him.

Worry is a cycle of inefficient thoughts whirling around a center of fear.

The beloved Will Rogers

Humorist/journalist Will Rogers was probably the most beloved and popular American humorist since Mark Twain. Editor Rev. Cy Eberhart, a Will Rogers biographer, reported this response from Rogers when someone questioned him about his faith: "People often ask me, What are you, Will? Well, I was raised predominately a Methodist, but I have traveled so much, mixed with so many people in all parts of the world, I don't know just what I am. I know I have never been a nonbeliever. I do know that I am broad-minded in a religious way. Which way you serve your God will never get one word of argument or condemnation out of me. There have been times when I wished there had been as much real religion among some of our creeds as there has been vanity."

Rogers kept Americans laughing and lifted their spirits during the dark days of the Great Depression. When he died, 100,000 people paid their respects to him in his coffin.

Rev. Eberhart reported that the ecumenical Rogers' memorial service was presided over by a Protestant minister, a Catholic priest, and a Jewish performer singing a Hebrew mourning chant. Mexican American citizens nearby placed a memorial wreath in their neighborhood. "The Friends of Ethiopia," an African American group, joined a parade in Rogers' honor. In Oklahoma, where Rogers was born of Cherokee Indian parentage, Cherokee Indians performed a death dance in his memory.

Be grateful for each new day. A new day that you have never lived before. "Twenty-four new, fresh, unexplored hours to use usefully and -profitably."

"We can squander, neglect or use it. Life will be richer or poorer by the way we use today."

"Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities crept in: forget them as soon as you can."

"Tomorrow is a new day. You should begin it well, and serenely, and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense." --Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Do more than belong, participate.

Do more than care, help.

Do more than believe, practice.

Do more than be fair, be kind.

Do more that forgive, forget.

Do more than dream, work."

--William Arthur Ward

"When anger enters the mind, wisdom departs." --Thomas a' Kempis

"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment." --Benjamin Franklin

*"I do not want peace which passeth understanding. I want the understanding which bringeth peace." -----
--Helen Keller*

The Final Word 

Abilities: **Romans 12:6** –*God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.....*

Wise are those who discover their God-given gifts and make the best of them. Foolish is the person who wants those gifts that God hasn't given and spends his or her life in idle dreams of what could have been. Set your mind on discovering those gifts and abilities that God specifically had in mind when he made you. (Think about this reading as you consider your stewardship commitment to St. Ann's for 2022 – see Stewardship Letter from Tom Vail soon).
NLT-GEZ

St. Ann's Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 22
Afton, New York 13730

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AND ACTION**

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman
Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

