

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: Currently Supply Priests

If you desire a visit from a priest or give you a call, please contact one of the wardens below.

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



HUGS for FRIENDS and FAMILY

Friends come and friends go,
but a true friend stick by you like family.

A loving family is a treasure from God; so is a trustworthy friend. If you're a member of a close-knit, supportive clan, offer a word of thanks to your Creator. And if you have a close circle of trustworthy, huggable friends, consider yourself richly blessed.

Today let us praise God for our family and for our friends. God has placed these people along our paths. Let us love them, encourage them, hug them, and care for them. And let's give thanks to the father for all the people who enrich our lives. They are, in a very real sense, gifts from God. We should treat them as such.

What a great favor God does to those whom He places in the company of good people!
(Saint Teresa of Avila)

Prayer for the selection of a Rector



Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on your church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MAY SERVICE SCHEDULE \ SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

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.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Acolytes	
May 5	MP	Carol Tarvin	Carol Tarvin	B. Vail	
May 12	HC	Carol Cimini	Carol Cimini	B. Vail	
May 19	MP	Judy Rettberg	Judy Rettberg	B. Vail	
May 26	HC/Trinity	Pat Tucker	Pat Tucker	B. Vail	
June 2	MP	Amy Wieber	Amy Wieber	B. Vail	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
May 5	MP	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
May 12		Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19 Psalm 1	John 17:6-19 Psalm 1
May 19	MP	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:25-35, 37	Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May 26	HC/Trinity	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17
June 2	MP	1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)	Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17	1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)	Mark 2:23-3:6
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:

May 5 -- Denise Wieber

May 19 -- Carol Cimini

June 2 -- Denise Wieber

PLEASE NOTE: Mother Elizabeth Groskoph will be with us to conduct Holy Eucharist on May 12 and May 26.

ALTAR GUILD for the month of May – Pat Tucker 607-206-4319. If you desire to have flowers placed on the Altar in memory of a loved one, please contact Betty Vail 607-639-1201 one week in advance.

St. Ann's Prayer List for *May 2024*

It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. 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. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. We would like to be sure that this prayer list is updated as changes occur and don't want to remove someone that should be on it. Please send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 607-639-1201. Please note that long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names will typically be left on the listing for 3 or 4 months or perhaps longer.

Short Term				Long Term	
Dorothy	Judy	Carol	Cindy	Fr. David Hanselman	St. Paul's Church
MaryAnn	Arlene	Mya	David	Fr. Steven White	St. Andrews's Church
Bill	Irene	Holly	Terra	Pastor Becky	St. Ann's Church
Cheryl	Gail	Bonnie	Arthur	Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Peter's Church
Mado		Bobbi	Jason	The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	Zion Church St. Matthew's Church
Barbara		Bishop Michael Curry	Kim	Search for Rector	Message Ministries
Edward				The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph	The General Theological Seminary
				Emanuel Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
				Epiphany Church	Bishop Michael Curry

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins – Carol Vail and 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.



St. Ann's Episcopal Church
Vestry Hi-lites

**April meeting was combined with March.
Our next Vestry meeting will be May 19th, 2024, after service.**



CHURCH TERMS: PENTECOST: Also called Whitsunday, Pentecost is the fiftieth day after Easter, the seventh Sunday. It is observed in commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in the form of cloven tongues of fire. Peter was the preacher on that day and three thousand were baptized. Liturgical color: **red**

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

BULLETIN: Your receipt for attending the service.

HYMN: a song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

INCENSE: Holy Smoke!

KYRIE ELEISON: The only Greek words that most Episcopalians can recognize besides gyros and baklava. (It means Lord have mercy.)

MAGI: The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.



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 cttallmadg@aol.com or 607-343-1301.



May 12th. has been designated as the date for the Spring “ingathering” for the UTO.

The first United Thank Offering was in 1889 and began as part of Missionary efforts of the Women’s Auxiliary to the Board of Mission authorized by General Convention in 1871. Julia Emery, secretary to the Women’s Auxiliary, and Ida Soule, who counted the missionary offering of the 1886 Triennial meeting Women, inspired women to pray and give coins with the idea of building a new church in Anvik, Alaska as well as sending Miss Lisa Lowell as a

missionary to Japan. In that year, the offering reached \$2,188.64. These women dreamed of supporting mission work. It is now our time to dream of how we can make a difference with the message of thanksgiving and self-giving, and always with grateful hearts.

The United Thank Offering is a way for men, women, and children to give daily thanks to God with a sense of gratitude. The discipline begins at home by placing coins in the blue envelope or box. In years past the “blue boxes” of the UTO have been used as a Sunday School project, for the purpose of helping others. Now, that offer is, on a yearly basis, between two and a half and three million dollars, all of which is used for projects at home and abroad. “Thankful coins from thankful hearts.”

The UTO is awarded hundreds of grants each year. The expenses of the UTO are carefully controlled and volunteer committees are supported by the income from designated trust funds. Any surplus is also used for grants. The general budget of the Episcopal Church USA supports the UTO office.

Everyone can become part of UTO by offering thanks and prayers as part of your daily life with Christ, while dropping coins in the blue box or envelope. It is a good reminder to give thanks to God for the gifts that have been given to us.....a child’s smile, a beautiful day, for healing of hurts, for garden fruits, for rain, for our families...HOW LONG IS YOUR LIST? Why not consider supporting the UTO effort. Just write “UTO” on the check memo line.



A warm “THANK YOU” to Judy Rettberg for her birthday card ministry, to Gary Zurn for his work as co-treasurer for St. Ann’s and to Bobbi Zurn for her continued “behind the scenes” support of this Parish.

Happy Mother' Day May 12, 2024



This article has been run before, but it has become a tradition to publish it every couple of years.

A Parable on Motherhood

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is the way long?" she asked. And her guide said, "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning." But the young mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children and gathered flowers for them along the way and bathed with them in the streams; and the sun shone on them and life was good, and the young mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then night came, and storm, and the path was dark and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle and the children said, "O mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come," and the mother said, "This is better than the brightness of day, for I have taught my children courage."

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary, but at all times she said to the children, "A little patience and we are there." So, the children climbed and when they reached the top, they said, "We could not have done it without you, mother." And the mother, when she lay down that night, looked up at the stars and said, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage, today I have given them strength."

And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth—clouds of war and hate and evil—and the children groped and stumbled, and the mother said, "Look up. Lift your eyes to the light." And the children looked and saw above the clouds an Everlasting Glory, and it guided them and brought them beyond the darkness. And that night the mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."

And the days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years, and the mother grew old, and she was little and bent. But her children were tall and strong and walked with courage. And when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was as light as a feather; and at last, they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide.

And the mother said, "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them."

And the children said, "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates." And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said, "We cannot see her, but she is with us still. A mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a Living Presence." **A mother is a best friend forever.** May God bless all mothers.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"What I like best about Easter Sunday is the candy, and Jesus not bein' dead anymore."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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God's kids say & do the funniest things

Fr. Richard Carton, associate pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Mountain Lakes, NJ, was speaking to a group of second graders about the Resurrection when one student asked "What did Jesus say right after He came out of the grave?"

It was a question of great theological importance, but Fr. Carton had to explain, in words suitable to his young audience, that the Gospels do not tell us just what He said.

The hand of one little girl shot up. "I know what He said, Father," she insisted.

"And what was that?" asked Father Carton.

"Ta-da!" the girl exclaimed.

— Andy Fisher
Denville, NJ

Humor for the hard times

In his Easter sermon, a young assistant pastor was addressing a youth group. "People waste many thousands of dollars on ornate coffins, fancy mausoleums and monuments to their dead bodies," he said. "Jesus was so unconcerned about death that He had to use a borrowed tomb."

A voice in the back of the room said, "Pastor, he only needed it for three days."

— Msgr. Arthur Tonne



A pastor was suddenly called away and unable to officiate at the Sunday service in his church. He entrusted his new assistant pastor with that duty.

When he returned home the following week, he asked his wife what she thought of his young assistant's sermon.

"The poorest I ever heard," she said. "Nothing in it at all. It didn't even make sense."

Later that day, the pastor met his assistant, and asked him how he had managed the previous Sunday.

"Fine, sir, absolutely wonderful," the young priest replied. "I didn't have time to prepare a sermon myself, so I preached one of your old sermons."



The Final Word

Sorrow: Romans 8:26-27 *“And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads with us believers in harmony with God's own will.”*

Experiences of deep sorrow can spread a shadow over the face of our lives. The darkness of grief and pain can leave us feeling spiritually paralyzed and virtually unable to pray. Our minds and hearts are consumed, and we don't even know what we ought to pray. What a comfort to know that the Holy Spirit can interpret perfectly even the groanings of our souls. When sorrow binds up your heart and words stick in your throat, even your sighs and groanings become, with the Spirits help, eloquent prayers offered to your heavenly Father.

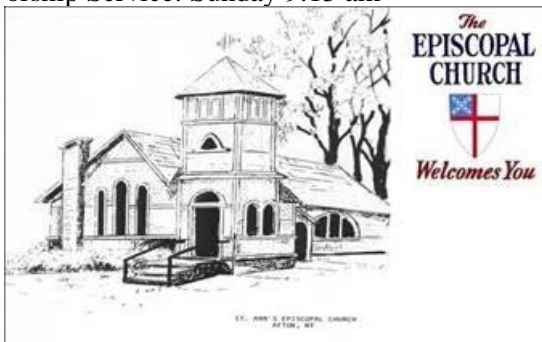
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St. Ann's Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 22
Afton, New York 13730

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR
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AND ACTION

Clergy: Currently Supply Priests
Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here



May 