

## Sharing God's Love in Our Community Through Prayer, Study and Action

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY  
(Member of the Broome/Chenango District)

### The Parish News

[www.stannsaftonny.org](http://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

### *Living in an Anxious World*

***God is striding ahead of you. He's right there with you. He won't let you down; he won't leave you. Don't be intimidated. Don't worry.***

Deuteronomy 31:8 MSG

We live in a world that often breeds anxiety and fear. When we come face to face with tough times, we may fall prey to discouragement, doubt, or depression. But our Father in heaven has better plans for us. God has promised that we can lead lives of abundance, not anxiety. And we can depend on that promise.

As you face the challenges of daily living, do you find yourself becoming anxious, troubled, discouraged, or fearful? If so, turn every one of your concerns over to your heavenly Father. The same God who created the universe will comfort you if you ask Him. So, ask Him---and trust Him. Then watch in amazement as your anxieties melt into the warmth of his loving embrace.

***Surely the consolation prize of old age is finding out  
how few things are worth worrying over.***

(Dorothy Dix)

### **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.



## NOV/DEC 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. [Bettom415@aol.com](mailto:Bettom415@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	
Nov 3	MP	Betty Vail	Betty Vail	B. Vail	
Nov 10	HC	Tracey Tallmadge	Tracey Tallmadge	T. Tallmadge	
Nov 17	MP	Amy Wieber	Amy Wieber	B. Vail	
Nov 24	HC	Carol Cimini	Carol Cimini	D. Wieber	
Dec 1	MP	Amy Wieber	Amy Wieber	D. Wieber	
Dec 8	HC	Carol Cimini	Carol Cimini	B. Vail	
Dec 15	MP	Tracey Tallmadge	Tracey Tallmadge	T. Tallmadge	
Dec 22	HC	Betty Vail	Betty Vail	B. Vail	
Dec 24	HC	CHRISTMAS CAROL & READINGS		B. Vail	
Dec 29	MP	Amy Wieber	Amy Wieber	D. Wieber	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Nov 3	MP	<a href="#">Ruth 1:1-18</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 146</a>	<a href="#">Hebrews 9:11-14</a>	<a href="#">Mark 12:28-34</a>
Nov 10	HC	<a href="#">Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 127</a>	<a href="#">Hebrews 9:24-28</a>	<a href="#">Mark 12:38-44</a>
Nov 17	MP	<a href="#">1 Samuel 1:4-20</a>	<a href="#">1 Samuel 2:1-10</a>	<a href="#">Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25</a>	<a href="#">Mark 13:1-8</a>
Nov 24	HC	<a href="#">2 Samuel 23:1-7</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 132:1-13 (14-19)</a>	<a href="#">Revelation 1:4b-8</a>	<a href="#">John 18:33-37</a>
Dec 1	MP	<a href="#">Jeremiah 33:14-16</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 25:1-9</a>	<a href="#">1 Thessalonians 3:9-13</a>	<a href="#">Luke 21:25-36</a>
Dec 8	HC	<a href="#">Baruch 5:1-9</a>	<a href="#">Canticle 4 or 16</a>	<a href="#">Philippians 1:3-11</a>	<a href="#">Luke 3:1-6</a>
Dec 15	MP	<a href="#">Zephaniah 3:14-20</a>	<a href="#">Canticle 9</a>	<a href="#">Philippians 4:4-7</a>	<a href="#">Luke 3:7-18</a>
Dec 22	HC	<a href="#">Micah 5:2-5a</a>	<a href="#">Canticle 15 (or 3) or Psalm 80:1-7</a>	<a href="#">Hebrews 10:5-10</a>	<a href="#">Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)</a>
Dec 24	HC	<a href="#">Isaiah 9:2-7</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 96</a>	<a href="#">Titus 2:11-14</a>	<a href="#">Luke 2:1-14(15-20)</a>
Dec 29	MP	<a href="#">Isaiah 61:10-62:3</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 147 or 147:13-21</a>	<a href="#">Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7</a>	<a href="#">John 1:1-18</a>
Jan 5		<a href="#">Jeremiah 31:7-14</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 84</a>	<a href="#">Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 2:13-15,19-23</a>
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

### MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:

Nov. 3	C. Cimini	Dec. 1	D. Wieber
Nov. 17	T. Tallmadge	Dec. 15	T. Tallmadge
		Dec. 29	D. Wieber

**ALTAR GUILD** for the month of **November** Carol Cimini (607-693-2907) and December Tracey Tallmadge (607-343-1301). **December:** Betty Vail (607-639-1201). If you desire to have flowers placed on the Altar in memory of a loved one, please contact Betty Vail at 607-639-1201 one week in advance.

### St. Ann's Prayer List for *Nov/Dec 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				
Bill		Carol	Tracey		Fr. David Hanselman	St. Paul's Church
Mary Ann		Mya			Fr. Steven White	St. Andrews's Church
Mado		Holly			Pastor Becky	St. Ann's Church
Barbara		Bonnie			Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Peter's Church
Edward		Bobbi			The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	Zion Church St. Matthew's Church
Terry		Jason			Search for Rector	Message Ministries
Pete		Cindy			The Rev. Liz Groskoph	The General Theological Seminary
Jeannette		David			Emanuel Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
Adele		Arthur			Epiphany Church	Bishop Michael Curry
Tim		Ron				
Hudson		Ralph				

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins – Bonnie MacPherson, Carol Vail, Toni Weller, and Bobbi Zurn



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**

1. Outreach for September was designated to go 1/2 to "RISE" which deals with domestic violence and 1/2 to "CVA" which provides crime victims with assistance. It was also approved to help a local neighbor, who is dealing with health issues, with landscaping issues at his residence, as he is physically unable to take care of them himself.
2. The rector search is proceeding, however, there are currently some eleven parishes, in the Diocese, searching for clergy and the prospect of finding someone quickly is unlikely.
3. It was decided to conduct Sunday services, during January and February, on "zoom." Zion, Greene, will be asked to participate. Mado is working with the TV for possible use prior to Sunday services starting.
4. The audit, done for the search process, satisfies the yearly audit requirement for the parish.
5. Fr. Geoff Doolittle has agreed to conduct the Christmas Eve service this year.
6. Stewardship Sunday will be November 3<sup>rd</sup>. UTO fall ingathering will be on November 10<sup>th</sup>.
7. The Annual Meeting will be on October 6<sup>th</sup>.
8. At the Annual Meeting, Denise Wieber and Carol Tarvin were elected to terms of three years as vestrypersons, terms to expire December 31, 2027. Tracey Tallmadge was elected to complete the remainder of a vestryperson term that expires December 31, 2026, and Betty Vail was elected to a two-year term as warden expiring December 31, 2026. Reports and financial reports were reviewed. Gary Zurn was thanked for his work with budgeting and financials.
9. A short vestry meeting was held after the Annual Meeting, to discuss the October and November outreach recipients. After discussion, it was decided to send the outreach funds, for the two months combined, to the Episcopal Fund for Relief and Development, designated for hurricane Helene relief in this country. Also approved to send a donation to each of the Hancock Fire Department and the Hancock Emergency Squad, in memory of Fr. Ralph Groskoph.



**CHURCH TERMS: THANKSGIVING** – (1) The offering of praise to God for His goodness and mercy. (2) A National Day of Thanksgiving. In the United States, the fourth Thursday in November; in Canada, the second Monday in October. Liturgical color: red

**CHRISTMAS:** --Christ's Mass. One of the major festivals of the Christian Year, Christmas is celebrated on December 25 to commemorate Christ's birth. Liturgical color: white



St. Ann's will be participating in Chenango County Dept. of Social Services Mitten and Hat program, which provides these items for needy foster children. Sizes would range from 2 years to 12 years. These items would need to be delivered to the church no later than December 1st. Your participation will be greatly appreciated by those in need.

[Stewardship/UTO](#)

[Please note that Stewardship Sunday will be November 3<sup>rd</sup>. and](#)

[that the fall UTO Ingathering will be November 10<sup>th</sup>.](#)



The Interchurch Council will sponsor an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Ann's Episcopal Church on **Tuesday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m.** Please join us!

On Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, St. Ann's will celebrate Christmas Eve with Lessons and Carols beginning at 4:15p.m. Reverend Geoffrey Doolittle will conduct Holy Eucharist.

Our zoom services, from home, will begin the first Sunday in **January, the 5<sup>th</sup>**. Services will be run by various laypeople from St. Ann's and Zion, Greene. Please join us as this is a good way to see one another during the winter months.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries November / December**

**November**

11/ 6 Robin Felldin  
11/15 Ron & Cindy Sherman  
11/24 Al & Pat Tucker

**December**

12/01 Lexi Cutmore  
12/08 Woody Robbins  
12/16 Sandy Proffitt  
12/20 Dan Vail  
12/5 Dave & Nancy Setford

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

## **A History of Christmas Carols**

### **The most enduring Holiday Songs**

**Music enriches any holiday, and this is particularly true at Christmas. Starting each year in November or even earlier, homes, churches, stores, shopping malls, and public buildings are filled with the music of Christmas carols. But where did our carols come from? Who were the first carolers?**

**The word “carol” is most likely derived from the Old French word caroler, which meant to dance in a circle, often while singing. There are some who would argue that the angels at Bethlehem were the first carolers, but Christmas music did not actually become part of Christmas festivities until there was a Christmas Day. And December 25<sup>th</sup>. was not established as Christmas Day until early in the fourth century, when the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, who had converted from pagan beliefs to Christianity, decided that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on this date. This generally accepted origin of the holiday is still a source of historical and religious debate, but there is agreement that the early observances of the day occurred in churches, and the music consisted of chants and psalms.**

**In 1223, all of that changed. An Italian monk named Francis, (later to become known as St. Francis of Assisi) who lived in the small town of Assisi, wanted to find a way for the common people to learn about Christmas. He decided that the best way to do this was to act out the Nativity story. He borrowed animals from local farms and talked some of the village people into portraying primary characters in the story.**

**Francis put together a live Nativity scene (complete with shepherds, wise men, and a holy family) and carols were sung. Francis also wrote a hymn in Latin which inspired the joyous spirit of caroling that soon spread across Europe. From that time on, Francis became known as the father of the Christmas carol, and in 1228, he was declared a saint.**

**Christmas carols soon became the songs of the common people. Some of the earliest carols were written by those who wanted to use music to convey Christian teachings to ordinary folks. This Christian message can still be heard in the oldest carol written in the English language and which is still sung today, “The First Nowell.” Its composer is unknown, but it is known that the carol was written in England. Its original spelling was “Nowell,” a word based on the Old English Christmas greeting of “Now all is well.” The other spelling is French and is based on Christmas being called *Noel* in France.**

**Another carol, “God Rest You Merry Gentlemen,” was written in the fifteenth century in response to the somber church music of that era. This joyful Christmas song allowed people who were disenchanted with the church’s solemn music to sing and even dance, and it remains popular today.**

**Christmas carols came to North America in 1645, and they were first sung by French missionaries at the Huron Mission, located near the northeast shore of Lake Huron. What is ironic about this is that while the French were using carols to try to convert Native Americans,**

the Puritan-controlled English colonial governments in America had outlawed any celebration of Christmas as being too pagan.

As time passed, however, attitudes toward carols changed, and the nineteenth century became known as the Golden Age of Carols. Over twenty of today's best-known Christmas carols were written during this period, including "O Holy Night," "It Came upon a Midnight Clear," "Good King Wenceslas," "We Three Kings of Orient Are," "Jingle Bells," "Jolly Old St. Nicholas," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Away in a Manger," "Angels We Have Heard on High," and "Silent Night."

The origins of some carols are lost in history, but other carols have histories that can be as inspiring as their cheerful lyrics. For example, around Christmas in 1818, a pastor was at work on his Christmas sermon in St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. The pastor, Joseph Mohr, was interrupted in his work by a local farmer who wanted him to come and bless his new infant. Pastor Mohr put on his coat and trudged out in the snow with the man. He visited and blessed the new infant. The peaceful scene reminded him of the scene at the first Christmas, and the words for a poem started forming in his head. Hurrying back to his desk, he wrote them down. He then gave the poem to his friend, Franz Gruber, a local schoolmaster, asking him to write music for the words. Gruber was impressed: "Your words seem to sing themselves," he told the pastor. Gruber served as the church's organist, but the organ was out of commission, so he wrote the music for two voices and a guitar. On Christmas Day in 1818, the little congregation heard for the first time a "song from heaven."

*Silent Night, Holy Night  
All is Calm, All is Bright.*

In 1857, James Pierpont (uncle to financier, J. P. Morgan) wrote a song for Thanksgiving called "Jingle Bells." He wrote both the words and the music and later commented that he had no idea the song would become as popular as it did.

Another well-known Christmas carol is based on a poem by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Composed in December 1863, the poem was Longfellow's response to the tragedy and despair that surrounded him. On April 12, 1861, the civil war had begun. Longfellow also had suffered personal tragedy when his young wife, Fanny, died when her dress caught fire. A little over one year later, Longfellow's 19-year-old son, Charles—a Union army soldier—had been wounded in battle. Longfellow's poem lamented the lack of "peace on earth and good will towards men." His seven-stanza poem was simply called "Christmas Bells." Almost ten years later, in 1872, the poem was set to music by John Calkin, choirmaster at St. Columba's College in Ireland, and was retitled "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."

There are many more stories of how popular carols were written and the modern tradition of Christmas carols has evolved over many years and continues to evolve and endure today. Anyone who has witnessed the power of a simple song to warm hearts and spread cheer among family and strangers alike understands how carols have become such an essential part of our holiday season. Expressed through Christmas carols, the sense of wonder, exhilaration, and celebration that marks the holiday season has inspired young and old alike through the centuries.



# The Final Word

**SACRIFICE: Hebrews 9:11-14** *“So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that great, perfect sanctuary in heaven, not made by human hands and not part of this created world. Once for all time he took blood into the Most Holy Place, but not the blood of goats and calves. He took his own blood, and with it he secured our salvation forever.*”

*Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow could cleanse people's bodies from ritual defilement. Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our hearts from deeds that lead to death so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.”*

**Like a well -written dramatic masterpiece, the entire history of the Old Testament sacrificial system culminates in this triumphant moment. But instead of the priest shedding the blood of one more bull, goat, or lamb in a religious ritual, the Lord Jesus spills his own blood. On the cross, Christ accomplished once and for all what rich ritual sacrifice can only prefigure--the cleansing and rebirth of the human heart. Are you entrusting your soul to the ultimate sacrifice of the living Savior or to some familiar yet inadequate religious system or ritual?**

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: Currently Supply Priests**

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

