

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

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 Betty Vail 607-639-1201

FINDING A QUIET PLACE

In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.

Isaiah 30:15 KJV

The world seems to grow louder day by day, and our senses seem to be invaded at every turn. If we allow the distractions of a clamorous society to separate us from God's peace, we do ourselves a profound disservice. Our task is to carve out moments of silence in a world filled with noise.

If we are to maintain righteous minds and compassionate hearts, we must take time each day for silence and meditation. We must quiet our minds and our hearts so we can sense God's will and his eternal love.

Nothing is more important than the time we spend with our heavenly Father. Today find time to be still and claim the inner peace that is found in the silent moments we spend alone with God.

One needs occasionally to stand aside from
the hum and rush of human interests
and passions to hear the voice of God.

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.



JAN/FEB ZOOM ONLY 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.

St. Ann's will begin Zoom services during the months of January, February, and March 2nd, returning to in-church services on March 9th. These Zoom services will be conducted by a Lay person from St. Ann's and Zion Episcopal in Greene. If you have not tried Zooming from your home, you might find that it is satisfying to remain at home on a bitter cold, snowy, icy day and partake in a 45-minute live church service. On January 7th, you can join in at 9:00 a.m. with the service beginning at 9:15. Click on the link that has been e-mailed to you and give it a try or go to the website and use the link listed there. At this time of the newsletter publication, there have been no arrangements made for a Priest to conduct an Ash Wednesday service at St. Ann's. This is due to lack of Clergy in our area. If this changes, we will advise.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Leader	
Jan 5	MP	Tom Vail	Tom Vail	Dan Vail	
Jan 12	MP	Denise Wieber	Denise Wieber	Carol Cimini	
Jan 19	MP	Denise Wieber	Denise Wieber	Annette Patten	
Jan 26	MP	Nancy Setford	Nancey Setford	Betty Vail	
Feb 2	MP	Tracey Tallmadge	Tracey Tallmadge	Tom Vail	
Feb 9	MP	Nancy Setford	Nancey Setford	Denise Wieber	
Feb 16	MP	Amedeo Cimini	Amedeo Cimini	Betty Vail	
Feb 23	MP	Amedeo Cimini	Carol Cimini	Amedeo Cimini	
Mar 2	MP	Betty Vail	Betty Vail	Carol Cimini	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Jan 5	MP	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 84 or 84:1-8	Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a	Matthew 2:13-15,19-23
Jan 12	MP	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan 19	MP	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Jan 26	MP	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Feb 2	MP	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm 84	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Feb 9	MP	Isaiah 6:1-8, [9-13]	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
Feb 16	MP	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
Feb 23	MP	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42	1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50	Luke 6:27-38
Mar 2	MP	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

ALTAR GUILD for the month of MARCH Tracey Tallmadge 607-343-1301

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
Jan/Feb 2025**

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			
Fran		Carol	Sue		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
Garrett		Arthur			Epiphany Church Bishop Michael Curry
Darlene		Cheryl			
Hudson					

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, and 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

Vestry Hi-lites
December 15, 2024

1. Outreach for January & February will be Afton Food Bank, Chenango County Emergency Housing, Food for the Poor, Chenango County Hospice.
2. Services for January and February will be conducted on Zoom.
3. Our hat and mitten project resulted in sixty-five hats, fifty-five pairs of mittens and ten lap robes being donated to the Chenango County Dept. of Social Services.
4. The stations of the cross posted on the walls of the Church will be framed. These drawings were originally given to St. Ann's by Fr. Ralph Groskoph.
5. A resources list has been prepared to hand out to those in need, giving them the information needed to avail themselves of these services.
6. The Diocesan assessment and pledge amounts were approved at the Diocese suggested level, \$4325 for the assessment and \$2595 for the pledge.
7. Approved having a cookie day for AA.



CHURCH TERMS: CANDELABRA - a branched holder accommodating three, five, or seven candles, representing the Trinity, the five wounds of Christ, and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit or the church, respectively. The Jews call the seven branched candelabra the "Menorah," representing Old Testament worship.

CANDLES - Symbolical of Jesus as the Light of the World. When two are used, one on either side of the cross, they represent his two natures, human and divine. Candles on the altar were originally required to be of pure bees' wax. Now candles with 50% bees wax content or even stearin candles are in common usage.

Birthdays and Anniversaries JANUARY/FEBRUARY

January Birthdays

- 4 Briella Harding
- 15 Tyler Wright
- 20 Ron Sherman
- 27 Cindy Sherman & Bonnie MacPherson

February Birthdays

- 2/2 Tom Vail
- 2/18 Carol Tarvin

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



If anyone would like to send cards to the following, we are sure they would appreciate hearing from us.

Mrs. Melrose Kelly
 Elizabeth Church Manor
 St Louise – Room 234
 Binghamton, NY 13901
 1607-343-4116

Mya Boston
 256 Main St ER
 Randolph, NY 14772
 716-300-8125

The Light Shines in the Darkness The Rev'd James P. Haney

In 2007, the kids and I visited Wind Cave National Park in the Black Hills of South Dakota. But instead of taking the standard cave tour, we opted to do something different. We signed up for the historic “Candlelight Cave Tour” which attempted to recreate what it would have been like to visit the cave in the late 1800’s. Led by a park ranger, a small group of us visited an unimproved section of the cave, where we were walking on the bare cave floor. And the only light source we were issued were lanterns made of buckets and candles.

It was a bit daunting at first, going into the bowels of the earth with such a low-tech light source. The route was labyrinthine, with very low ceilings at times, and places where you had to scramble up or down rocky inclines. The candles were not that bright. The buckets couldn’t be angled up or down that easily -- instead, you had to raise your bucket above your head or lower it down by your feet. And it was basically impossible to simultaneously shine your light on obstacles about you and on the very rough and uneven path at your feet. It would have been a very scary trip to make alone.

But we weren’t alone. First, those of us on the tour had the ranger, who knew the cave and the way through it intimately. He would frequently pause and say, “Okay, just up ahead is...” which would prepare us for whatever maneuver we were going to need to make. Plus, during the most difficult parts, usually going up or down hill, he would shine his lantern backwards and hold it down near the ground and ask each of us to do the same thing for the person behind us, so that each person could more easily see what was coming next. Thus, we were aided not only by the expertise of the ranger, but by each other as well.

At the midpoint of the tour, the ranger had us sit down and extinguish our candles to experience the total darkness of the cave, that inky blackness so thick that I couldn’t even make out my hand in front of my face. And as we were sitting there, I thought, “What if the ranger can’t find his matches? What if he dropped them somewhere by mistake?” If so, we would have been in big trouble. But the ranger did have his matches and was able to light our candles. The candle flames that seemed so puny earlier in the trip seemed like search lights in the darkness.

In the Christian life, the tools we’re issued may seem primitive and feeble. Given the high-tech world around us, we might wonder at first how writings from thousands of years ago, ancient practices of prayer, and strange ritual meals involving bread and wine can possibly help us navigate our way through life.

To outsiders, they might seem as clumsy and inefficient as a bucket with a candle. And yet, the more I study scripture, the more I worship and use the ancient pathways of prayer, I am amazed at how a modern culture - which seems to have all the answers—can be far less illuminating than such venerable tools.

On our journeys, we have an incredible gift: Jesus Christ, a guide who leads us and knows the way through life. He points out perils and difficult parts of the journey, we need only heed his voice. His light shines in the darkness. And he encourages us to shine our lights in such a way that we help others on the journey with us.

The Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also – Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!” (Psalm 95:3-4, 7)

Christmas is tomorrow.

Christmas isn't gone. Christmas is tomorrow, the day after tomorrow and all the days after that you can count—if you make it that way.

For every day there are scores and hundreds and thousands of people who need the special something that makes Christmas what it is.

You may never get to know these people. Or you may meet them turning a corner. Or you may read about them in a newspaper, or you may discover that they work right in your office or even live with you in your home.

Everyone wants a little something of Christmas every day.

Not a present, not a box of cigars or a bottle of perfume, not a doll or mechanical toy.

They want and they need something that each of us individually can give-and feel the better for giving.

Something of ourselves. Kindness. Understanding. Patience. Tolerance. Goodwill. Faith.

You could probably coin a thousand names for it—including love—and never really name it.

You know, though, when you've given it. For you feel better inside knowing you've made someone else feel better inside. It's a warm feeling. It's a wonderful feeling. It's a feeling of Christmas.

Yes, Christmas is a good name for it. And every day in the year is a good time for seeing to it that you feel it—by making someone else feel it. And you can. For Christmas was never yesterday. It's always tomorrow.

Valentine Treats:

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is okay."

— Danny, 8

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."

— Tommy, 6

"Love is when my older sister gives me her old clothes, and has to go out and buy new ones."

— Lauren, 4

"There are two kinds of love. Our love. God's love. But God makes both kinds."

— Jenny, 4

"To love is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will certainly be broken. If you want to be sure of keeping it intact, you must give it to no one."

— C.S. Lewis

"When you love someone, you delight in being with, looking at, listening to that person. So it is with God. He loves you. He delights to be with you."

— Felix A Lorentz, Jr.

"Your faithful love is priceless, God! Humanity finds refuge in the shadow of your winds."

— Psalm 36:7

"This is how everyone will know you are my disciples, when you love each other."

— John 13:35

"The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love."

— 1 John 4:8

The Final Word 
No final word for this edition.

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

