

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

Accepting Forgiveness.....and Giving it

*Smart people know how to hold their tongue; their grandeur is to
Forgive and forget.*

Proverbs 19:11 MSG

God's power to forgive, like His love, is infinite. All who are the recipients of God's forgiveness should forgive others. When we do, we not only obey God's command, we also free ourselves from a prison of our own making; a prison of bitterness and regret.

Jennie Jerome Churchill noted, "Life is not always what one wants it to be, but to make the best of it, as it is, is the only way of being happy." These words remind us that when we allow ourselves to become embittered, we forfeit the happiness that might otherwise be ours.

When it comes to forgiveness, God doesn't play favorites, and neither should we. Complete forgiveness is God's way, and it should be our way too. Anything less is an affront to Him and a burden to us.

Nobody is perfect. Look for the good in others. Forget the rest.

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.



MARCH 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
Mar 2	MP	ZOOM ONLY	ZOOM ONLY	ZOOM ONLY
Mar 9	HC	Carol Cimini	Carol Cimini	B. Vail
Mar 16	MP	Amy Wieber	Amy Wieber	B. Vail
Mar 23	HC	Judy Rettberg	Judy Rettberg	B. Vail
Mar 30	MP	Betty Vail	Betty Vail	B. Vail
Apr 6	MP	Tom Vail	Tom Vail	B. Vail

READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Mar 2	MP	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]
Mar 9	HC	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
Mar 16	MP	Genesis 15:1-12,17-18	Psalm 27	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35
Mar 23	HC	Exodus 3:1-15	Psalm 63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
Mar 30	MP	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Apr 6	MP	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8

If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.

MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:
 Mar 16 – Denise Wieber
 Mar 30 - Carol Cimini

COFFEE HOUR:
 March 9 – Carol Cimini
 March 16 – Denise and Amy Wieber
 March 23 – Judy Rettberg
 March 30 – Betty Vail

ALTAR GUILD for the month of **MARCH** Tracey Tallmadge 607-343-1301. Flowers are not placed on the Altar during the Lenten season.

St. Ann’s Prayer List for *March 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 we do not 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 remain 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			
				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
Darlene		Arthur		Epiphany Church	Bishop Michael Curry
Hudson		Cheryl			

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

Vestry Hi-lites

No meeting in Jan/Feb due to ZOOM only service.
Outreach for these months was decided in Dec 2024 and have been sent.
We will have a meeting on March 16, 2025



CHURCH TERMS: ASHES - The powdered ashes of the palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday, placed on the forehead on Ash Wednesday as a reminder of man's need for repentance.

ASH WEDNESDAY - The name is taken from the custom of putting ashes on the forehead on this first day of Lent. The date depends on the date of Easter, before which it is the forty-sixth day.

St. Ann's will not be having an Ash Wednesday service due to lack of a Priest to conduct the service. March 4th, which is Shrove Tuesday, a Pancake Dinner will be served at Zion Church in Greene beginning at 6:00pm. The Imposition of Ashes will begin at 7:00pm with Fr. Geoffrey Doolittle conducting the service.

The search for a Priest for St. Ann's, Zion and St. Paul's is still active, but there has been no response currently.

Birthdays March

6th Connie Beames

7th Nancy Setford and Bobbi Zurn

27th Melrose Kelly

28th Tracey Tallmadge and Laurin Felldin



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
** 356 Main St ER
Randolph, NY 14772
716-300-8125

I made an error in Jan/Feb address for Mya * Please see corrected address above.

The Star Stopped Over the Place Where the Child Was

The Very Rev'd Samuel G. Candler

Some thoughts after the Christmas season.

Any astronomers around? Only one of the four accounts of the Gospel describes a star going ahead of some magi looking for the Christ. *Matthew 2:9* says that “when they had heard the king, they set out and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.”

When I talk about the possibility of that famous star, the “Star of Bethlehem,” I start with the verse that says, “*it stopped over the place where the child was.*” This verse should bewilder us, whether we fancy ourselves serious astronomers or not.

Now, if you were to go outside under a starlit sky, how in the world could you possibly tell that a particular heavenly body – whether the moon, or a planet, or a star – was directly over you, or directly over someone, say, 50 miles away? Obviously, the night sky is so vast, and the heavenly bodies so far away, but there is no way of saying that a star is over one place on earth, and not over another! (Unless we are at a Christmas Pageant, and the wonderful star, about 3 feet wide, is being held aloft over a manger scene!)

Here beginneth, then, my meager analysis of what led the magi. (I use here the analysis of Michael Molnar, a retired astronomer of Rutgers University.) First of all, they were magi, or astrologers – not astronomers in our sense of the word. They associated heavenly bodies like the planets, and the moon, and constellations, with people and times of life. The constellation Aries was associated with the Jews. The planet Jupiter was “the regal star that conferred kingships.”

Well, in 6 BC, when the moon was passing through the constellation Aries, the moon also “occulted,” or “passed over,” Jupiter. When Jupiter emerged from behind the moon, the

astrologers were to assume a royal birth of some sort, and Aries was a sign of Judea! Thus, a king of the Jews had been born, emerging from behind the moon. Furthermore, Jupiter then stopped! Yes, the planets that are outside the orbit of the earth appear to “stop” in the night sky, occasionally, when the earth passes them, in our smaller orbit. Then, the planet goes “retrograde,” it appears to us to reverse direction and to go backwards in the night sky. That, I believe is what the Gospel according to Matthew means when he says that the “star stopped over the place where the child was.” It means the “star” (the planet, Jupiter) appeared to stop in the night sky. My sense is that when the planet Jupiter “stopped,” the important thing was where the magi were! Not where the star (or planet) was. Wherever the magi were when the planet stopped had to be the place. And wherever they were on their journey, that was where the Christ, the Messiah had been born. They went into the house (yes, in Matthew’s version, they go into a house, not a stable) and found Mary and the child.

It might be an explanation that works, (Maybe not) The important thing is that a light shone in the darkness, and that light was the light of the world. Or, as *John 1:5* says, *“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.”*

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PHILLIP'S FLOCK

By Doc Goodwin



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Lent is
a time to
fast from
Discontent
Anger
Bitterness
Self-Concern
Discouragement
Laziness
Suspicion
Guilt

Any time of spiritual discipline, such as Lent, calls the disciple to an intentional focus on that which is not pleasing to the Father, nor helpful to the body or soul, it is in order to recognize areas which may block communion with God. While the inspection often begins with the shortcomings of others, it ultimately becomes awareness that those shortcomings are within...



Lent is
a time to
feast on
Gratitude
Patience
Forgiveness
Compassion
Hope
Commitments
Truth
The Mercy of God

...But recognizing shortcomings is of no value unless there is resolve; it would be like opening up a wound without treating it. The delight of Lent is not the hard work of discipline, but the great reward of letting God provide for healing the very tools that you can offer to others.

Photo by Anonymous, Anna Marie Island Beach, Florida

The Final Word

See previous Lent article from The Joyful Noiseletter. It says it all.

However remember to set you clocks ahead on March 9th as it is Spring Ahead time.



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

