

## 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](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 Betty Vail: 607-639-1201



### End of Work Prayer

*In all your ways acknowledge Him.*

Proverbs 3:6 (NKJV)

Many people are quick to pray before a meal, before they begin a new project, before they attempt something for the first time or before embarking on a long journey. They desire to start on the right foot, asking for God's help, protection, creativity, and blessing, but what about prayer at the end of a workday, journey, or task?

Such a prayer is like a second bookend on a shelf of freestanding books—it brackets our work and brings us to full recognition that we have received from the Lord the very things we requested. Rather than being a prayer of petition, such a prayer is an expression of praise and thanksgiving.

Simeon had lived his entire life waiting to see the Messiah—a promise the Lord had made to him. (See Luke 2:26.) Upon seeing the infant Jesus in the Temple, Simeon took Him in his arms, blessed God, and said, **“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation”** (Luke 2:29-30 NKJV). Simeon recognized that God had been faithful to His Word, and his heart was encouraged and filled with joy.

Simeon is a wonderful example of how we need to begin and end the events of our lives with prayer. When we reach the end of a day, haggard and weary, we can remember Simeon's prayer. “Lord, let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word.”

Knowing God was with us today and He will be with us tomorrow, we can move on to the evening hours with freedom and a sense of satisfaction.

St. Ann's welcomes The Reverend Dawn-Victoria Mitchell who will conduct Holy Eucharist once a month. The dates can be viewed on the service schedule in the bi-monthly newsletter.



### 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/JUNE 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](mailto:Bottom415@aol.com), Yes, the “zoom” service is different, but change is what life is all about.

If you desire communion more than once or twice a month, Rev. Geoff Doolittle conducts Holy Eucharist at Zion Greene on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday nights at 5:00 p.m. He conducts Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's in Oxford the 2nd and 4th Saturday nights at 5:00 p.m.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service/Leader	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Acolytes	
May 3	MP/ D. Wieber	B. Vail	B. Vail	B. Vail	
May 10	MP/ B. Vail	S. Botzki	S. Botzki	D.Vail	
May 17	MP/ D. Wieber	J. Rettberg	J. Rettberg	T.Tallmadge	
May 24	Baptism	T. Vail	T. Vail	B.Vail & T.Botzki	
May 31	MP/ B.Vail	D. Wieber	D. Wieber	D. Wieber	
June 7	MP/ D. Wieber	A. Wieber	A. Wieber	T.Tallmadge	
June 14	MP/ T. Tallmadge	D. Wieber	D. Wieber	D. Wieber	
June 21	MP/ Betty Vail	J. Rettberg	J. Rettberg	B. Vail	
June 28	HC	S. Botzki	S. Botzki	B. Vail	
July 5	MP/ Betty Vail	J. Rettberg	J. Rettberg	B. Vail	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalms	New Testament	Gospel
May 3	MP/ D. Wieber	<a href="#">Acts 7:55-60</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16</a>	<a href="#">1 Peter 2:2-10</a>	<a href="#">John 14:1-14</a>
May 10	MP/ D. Wieber	<a href="#">Acts 17:22-31</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 66:7-18</a>	<a href="#">1 Peter 3:13-22</a>	<a href="#">John 14:15-21</a>
May 17	MP/ B. Vail	<a href="#">Acts 1:6-14</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36</a>	<a href="#">1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11</a>	<a href="#">John 17:1-11</a>
May 24	HC	<a href="#">Acts 2:1-21</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 104:25-35, 37</a>	<a href="#">1 Corinthians 12:3b-13</a>	<a href="#">John 20:19-23</a>
May 31	MP/ B. Vail	<a href="#">Genesis 1:1-2:4a</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 8</a>	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 13:11-13</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 28:16-20</a>
June 7	MP/ D. Wieber	<a href="#">Genesis 12:1-9</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 33:1-12</a>	<a href="#">Romans 4:13-25</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26</a>
June 14	MP/ T. Tallmadge	<a href="#">Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 116:1, 10-17</a>	<a href="#">Romans 5:1-8</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)</a>

<b>June 21</b>	MP/ Betty Vail	<a href="#">Genesis 21:8-21</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17</a>	<a href="#">Romans 6:1b-11</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 10:24-39</a>
<b>June 28</b>	HC	<a href="#">Genesis 22:1-14</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 13</a>	<a href="#">Romans 6:12-23</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 10:40-42</a>
<b>July 5</b>	MP/ Betty Vail	<a href="#">Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 45: 11-18</a>	<a href="#">Romans 7:15-25a</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30</a>

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



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

**ALTAR GUILD** duty for the month of June is Betty Vail, 607-639-1201.

**St. Ann's welcomes The Reverend Dawn-Victoria Mitchell who will conduct Holy Eucharist once a month. The dates can be viewed on the service schedule in the bi-monthly newsletter.**

***St. Ann's Prayer List for May/June 2026***

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 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			
Melrose	Joe	Mya	Holly	Fr. Steven White	St. Paul's Church
Gary	Cheryl	Bonnie	Bobbi	Pastor Becky	St. Andrews's Church
Dorothy	David	Jason	Cindy	Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Ann's Church
Joanne	Terry	David	Arthur	The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	St. Peter's Church
Marge	Tyler	Norm	Jason	Bishop Sean Rowe	Zion Church
Steve	Val	Cindy		The Rev. Liz Groskoph	St. Matthew's Church
Diane	Irene			Deacon David	Message Ministries
Gerry				Emanuel Church	The General Theological Seminary
				Epiphany Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
				Search for Rector	Berkeley Divinity School



Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins –  
**Melrose Kelly, Bonnie MacPherson, Bobbi Zurn and  
 Cindy Trick who is currently hospitalized.**

**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.*

**Mother's Day is May 10<sup>th</sup>.** Dear Lord, on this day dedicated to honoring mothers, we thank You for the blessings of motherhood. We are grateful for mother's love, strength, and guidance in shaping our lives. Bless all mothers who are no longer with us and mothers that are still with us on earth. Bless them with joy, peace, and love on this special day and always. Amen

**Father's Day is June 21<sup>st</sup>.** Heavenly Father today we thank you for the gifts of Father's who have passed away and for those that are with us. We thank you for your guidance, their sacrifices, and their love that reflects Your own. Bless them with strength for each day, wisdom for each decision, and joy in the moments they share with their families. May we always feel appreciated, valued, and deeply loved. Amen

**BAPTISM:** On May 24<sup>th</sup> at the 9:15a.m. service, baby Luna Raelyn Labar will be baptized into Christ's flock at St. Ann's church. Her parents are Logan and Chris Labar. Grandparents are Tracey and Calvin Tallmadge and Lori and Chris Labar. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall after the service.



## CHURCH TERMS AND SYMBOLS

**CHURCH TERMS: GODPARENTS** - At baptism, the witnesses, or sponsors for the child, who declare their Faith and promise to instruct the child in it. The parents may be the sponsors, or they may appoint another couple, the custom originating in the early Christian era when it was feared that the parents might be martyred and others would have to raise their children.



## St. Ann's Episcopal Church

### Vestry Hi-lites

- Outreach for March went to the Zion Greene backpack program and A Room To Heal in Binghamton.
- This year's convention delegates will be Dan and Betty Vail with Mado Cimini as alternate.
- This year's Diocesan convention will be held in Watertown and may be attended by zoom or in person.
- The Rev. Dawn Mitchell has agreed to be at St. Ann's the last Sunday of every month through December and for Christmas Eve. She is a delightful person.
- Our outreach for April is split between American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Afton Glenwood Cemetery.
- Suggested changes to the service of Morning Prayer were reviewed.

**VESTRY will meet on May 17 and on June 21.**



5/5 Pat Tucker

5/11 Betty Vail

5/20 Kathy Vail Carbone

5/22 Allyson Vail



6/1 – Mya Boston

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

## Some Words for the Times

At St. Ann's, like most churches and religious organizations, we are well into new year of hope for the world and our sacred spaces. We find ourselves filled not only with hope and enthusiasm for a new year, but also trepidation for the world we see and what has evolved in our country over the past few years. It may be difficult with the waning secular traditions of religion to see the continuation of religion as we have known it in the past, but organizations evolve, must evolve, as do attitudes and ideas. We are in a stage of evolution in the world we live in. As we strive to build a better future, we go through growing pains to get to the goals of a better future for our churches and our world. It is not easy, but as in the past, when we live our faith, we have thrived and will continue to do just that.

As we enter the new year, let us remember that Jesus Christ, our Lord, is with us as always. Caring, holding, and showing us our path if we listen to his inspiration, direction, and word. It is incumbent on us to open our hearts, ears, and mouths to hear what the Lord is saying and pointing us to. It is also incumbent on us to believe and act on the inspirations Jesus has given us and taught us. If we can hold on to our strong faith, which we know is true at St. Ann's, the future will be bright. It is not easy and takes everyone, just as it is true in the world, to hold on to and grow our faith, to not despair in the world around us, to spread faith and the words taught to us every week by the church, and every day in the bible. God's love in us brought his son, Jesus, to us for hope and enlightenment. Let us continue his love in hope in our lives, our church, and in our world.

**A reminder: Our UTO spring ingathering will be at the end of May this year. Please consider supporting this cause which helps those in this country and around the world.**

[The following is used with permission from The JoyfulNoiseletter.com](http://TheJoyfulNoiseletter.com)

### **For Mothers...**

Being a full-time Mom is the hardest job I've ever had, but it is also the best job I've ever had. The pay is lousy, but the rewards are eternal

— Lia Whelchel

As a mother, my job is to take care of the possible, and trust God with the impossible.

### **For Fathers...**

I would rather be a nobody in the world but be a somebody to my kids.

— Patrick Morley

God loves your children through you. If you are not available, how can He love them?

— Josh McDowell



## Making Light of the Gospel

BY MERRY PAUL LINTERN

We, the Fellowship of Merry Christians, make a big deal about Holy Humor Sunday, the week after Easter when we share jokes and laughs as we consider the trick God played on the devil, conquering the power of death.

We like to promote all of April as Holy Humor month, and while this is the May-June edition of the Joyful Noiseletter, most of you will receive this in April, so it is not too late to laugh — since we know how this all turns out. So, why not intend that humor, smiles, laughs — the outward signs of joy — be part of each gathering, each worship experience, each opportunity to show the love of Christ? (Of course, I am preaching to the choir here, I know.)

Jesus, being a good story teller and rabbinic teacher, certainly let his love of the Father's creation and knowledge of the bigger picture show through irony, wordplay, metaphors and lightheartedness during his three years as a healer and leader and proclaimer of Good News.

Nobody shares good news with a sour face, unless they are doing so in fun. No doubt Jesus was smiling a lot when he shared the news that the Kingdom of God is at hand, and the promise of a Messiah is being fulfilled in their hearing.

There were those who were threatened, angry, doubtful and downright grumpy, and they tended to be the ones who had a good church job and didn't want to be challenged. The people, on the other hand, were pretty excited — Hosanna-like, right up until about the end.

Never do I wish to downplay the gravity of the Lord's sacrifice for us — for me — the pain Jesus endured, the humiliation of the cross

Much of worship takes a very serious tone because of that, and leaders are sensitive to the burdens that life pours over the persons in the worship area.

But, it must also be said that much of what makes worship somber and serious is that we who are worshiping the Lord take ourselves too seriously, rather than taking seriously God's call to rejoice.

Apart from God, we are without purpose, without wisdom, without moral mooring.

Apart from God, we are the joke!

But God, the author and giver of laugh, offers us reason to rejoice, and to be light-hearted. We have permission to smile, regardless of what our surroundings have thrown at us. In fact, that is what God asks of us — to see Jesus, and so lean on God in all things, especially as bleak reaches a peak, and sorrow fills the morrow.

Make a plan to let mirth have a berth in your faith journey, all month, and every month.

Take every sense — See, hear, taste, touch, smell — and let them carry a sense of God's grace and peace.

Take every love language — words, affection, acts, time and gift-giving — and speak love, intentionally, joyfully.

Consider personalities, the ways we learn, hobbies, routines, resources, affiliations, relationships and you will find a bounty of picker-uppers (couldn't resist) for encouraging the faith — for you and those around you.

The Good News is that life begins at the cross; the joy is finding ways to let every part of who we are reflect that life, the light-hearted life.

Happy Holy Humor. Homies!

# "I"-Liners

This morning I coughed up a pawn, a bishop and a rook. I must have a chess infection.

I'm expecting a rough knight.

I got a flat tire yesterday; there was a fork in the road.

My neighbor said to try manure on my strawberries; I'm going back to whipped cream.

I wish I had a pair of skinny genes.

I just baked a synonym cake like grammar used to make.

I want to grow my own food, but I can't find bacon seeds.

I used to think I was indecisive; now I'm not sure.

Welcome to the Assumption Club; I think we all know why we are here.

My son said to me, "Dad, today I watched someone do 50 push-ups; do you think you could do that?"

I said, "Of course, son; I don't want to brag, but I could probably watch someone do 50 push-ups."

**Heaven has strict immigration laws;  
Hell has open borders.**

*As God's prisoner, then, I beg you to live lives worthy of your high calling. Accept life with humility and patience, making allowances for each other because you love each other. Make it your aim to be at one in the Spirit, and you will inevitably be at peace with one another. You all belong to one body, of which there is one Spirit, just as you all experienced one calling to one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, one Father of us all, who is the one over all, the one working through all and the one living in all.*

— Eph 4: 1-6

### **WARNING: English under assault** *Compiling misuses of our language*

Most people could care less that people say irregardless. This misuse should of been nipped in the butt long ago. Maybe they are just escape goats for the broader problems of the decline of education, but even though I have been biting my time here, cringing at the next foe par while they get off scotch free, it's truly a mute point these days. Face it: it's a doggie dog world. I think I'll just go curl up in a feeble position. Ex cetera, ex cetera, ex cetera.


*\*JoyfulNoiseletter.com*

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

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR  
COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY  
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**Clergy: Currently Supply Priests**  
Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am



*The*  
**EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**  
  
*Welcomes You*

Address Label Here

**Welcome  
Summer**