

The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY
<http://www.stannsafortny.org>

Member of the Chenango District

April 2015

Clergy The Reverend

From Fr. Dave

Fr. David A. Hanselman
761-4601 cell
656-9502 office

"The healing hand, held back by the deepened nail"

Wardens:

-Betty Vail
639-1201

For a couple months now, I've regularly recalled that line as a prayer of remembrance of the horror of Good Friday.

-Tracey Tallmadge
343-1301

"The healing hand...held back...by the deepened nail."

In an emergency and Fr. David can't be reached, please contact one of the wardens.

A powerful image. Made, perhaps even more powerful because of its source - a song from the heavy metal group Metallica. At the risk of making you all think I'm completely unchristian, I have to admit that I look to heavy metal music for completely unvarnished reflections upon Christianity, Christian hypocrisy, systems of domination and abuse. In other words, completely unvarnished and raw reflections upon the "real world".



Believe it or not, but much of what I listen to helps me focus my mind on the true goal and mission of my faith. A healing hand, held back by anything, ought to be an abomination. And yet, our world today tells us many "good" reasons to hold back that hand. The world tells us, "Feeding the hungry only makes them dependent upon your handouts and encourages them to gather together." And so, community after community bans the healing hand which delivers food to the poor and homeless.

Important Dates

Maundy Thursday
Apr 2 @ 7:00 pm - St Ann's
HC

The world tells us, "Welfare only encourages idleness and dependency". And so, certain groups seek to cut off funding whenever and where ever they can - fully realizing that yes indeed, welfare which only provides a basic subsistence never provides enough for folks to get back on their feet.

Good Friday
Apr 3 @ 7:00 pm - St. Ann's
HC

Time and again, the healing hand is being held back. Worst of all, we're given very good sounding and reasonable sounding reasons why it needs to be held back "for their own good." But, my friends, the Christian goal of healing was never just about "their own good." Healing isn't even about us feeling good about ourselves.

Easter Vigil
Apr 4 @ 7:00 pm - St Paul's
Oxford

Sunrise Service
Apr 5 @ 6:30 am - Afton
Methodist Church

Certainly, the crippled and blind and brokenhearted received very great reward in being healed. And certainly the disciples were probably quite happy to have provided the healing. But Christ's mission in healing was never about the particular folks who were healed or the particular folks who did the healing. Christ's mission was to show God's purpose for God's creation.

Easter Service
Apr 5 @ 9 a.m. - St. Ann's
HC

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Let me say that another way, Christ's purpose in his mission wasn't merely to heal and feed a few folks here and there and in so doing inspire others to the "feel good ministry" of healing. Christ's purpose was to show in clear and unvarnished ways God's purpose for God's creation.

If we don't settle that in our hearts - if we don't wrap our loving arms and our dedication and our purpose around God's purpose - if we don't react against the horror of the "healing hand held back by the deepened nail", then we will most certainly fall victim to the very next line in that song: "Follow the God that failed."

Good Friday was and is remembered for "the healing hand held back by the deepened nail", but Easter showed God's answer. Easter demonstrated God's will. Renewed life. Renewed creation. And the disciples' response to that event? In the words of former Bishop of Durham N.T. Wright, their response was - "Christ is risen! We've got work to do!" Amen.

Father Dave ✝

If you desire Father David to visit you or give you a call, please contact him at: (607) 761-4601 or (607) 656-9502.

Annual 3 Parish Picnic At Kellystone

Sunday, June 21, 2015 at 10:00 am

Bring a dish to pass and your table setting.



**Worship
&
Fun For Everyone**



Service Schedule

	<u>Date</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
<u>Easter Day - 9:00 a.m.</u>						
HC	Apr 5	C.Cimini	M.Harding	---	CC	A.Cimini/B.Vail
MP	Apr 12	T.Tallmadge	R.Felldin	---		T.Tallmadge
HC	Apr 19	D.Becker	M.Harding	AC	DB	A.Cimini/Tracey
MP	Apr 26	R.Felldin	T.Tallmadge	TV	---	T.Tallmadge
HC	May 3	T.Tallmadge	B.Vail	BV	TT	B.Vail

Morning Prayer:

April 12 - J.Proffitt/B.Wright

April 26 - T.Vail/D.Vail

Church School:

April 12 - K.Vail

April 19 - R.Felldin

April 26 - B.Vail

Special Thanks to all who serve

Note to all who serve: It would be most helpful if, when you cannot make your assigned date, you would arrange for a substitute. If you are unable to do that, please notify a warden. Thanks for your cooperation!

Lectionary (Year B)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Apr 5 Easter	118	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-73	John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
Apr 12 Easter 2	133	Acts 4:32-35	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
Apr 19 Easter 3	4	Acts 3:12-19	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
Apr 26 Easter 4	23	Acts 4:5-12	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
May 3 Easter 5	22:24-30	Acts 8:26-40	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duty – Altar Guild for the month of April is Grace Affuso 639-2961 and Betty Vail 639-1201. If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the Altar on a particular Sunday, call Betty Vail at 639-1201. If you are giving flowers in memory of a loved one, please notify Pete Vail (607)639-1444 no later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that he can include a notice in the bulletin.

In Need of Prayer

It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. A current listing follows. 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. The clergy persons of the Chenango District are included. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. Send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 639-1201.

Carol Peter Michele Joyce Pat Mya Holly Cindy Lou Toni Lois Sally Clifford
 Deb Mary Bonnie C. Kathy Richard Don Norma Danny Mike Michael Elaine
 Fr. Chuck Taylor Fr. David Hanselman Fr. Bruce MacDuffie Bishop "Skip" Adams Pope Francis Zion
 Church St. Paul's Church The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church The vestry of St.
 Ann's

The following prayer is suggested by Bishop Skip. It 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.

Vestry Highlights

1. **Outreach** - \$200.00 to the "Historical Society".
2. Approved Parochial Report completed by Treasurer Pete Vail
3. Easter Offering to be donated to Episcopal Relief and Development.
4. Tracey Tallmadge to be added to the Checking Account.
5. District meeting to be held at St Paul's Oxford.
6. Exception Student Award from St. Ann's will be increased to \$200.00.
7. Treasure Report - Inactive accounts were closed and funds transferred to the general checking account.
8. Holy Humor Sunday will be May 3.
9. Mothers Day breakfast will be May 10.

Kudos



THANKS! - A big thank you to everyone who cleaned the brass in and around the church and on the Altar in preparation for the Easter Season: Amy, Denise, Judy, Kerri, Betty, Melrose, Sandy, Tracey.

THANKS! - Denise, Amy, Betty and Sandy for the delicious soups at the Lenten Program.

THANKS! - Sandy and Brooke for making the Palm Crosses.

THANKS! - Ron Sherman for snow removal.



Note: *If you know of one or more people who we should thank in this column, please pass that information on to Pete Vail or Jody Proffitt. We don't want to miss anyone!*

The Scrooging of America

"I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of being pushed around, period.

Where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? There are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of recent events...terrorist attacks, school shootings, etc. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare complained that she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school...The Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell.

Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says.

Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.

Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us."

From CBS commentator Steven Levy

The American sin

Americans don't like to think about sin, especially when the question is whether there is a particular kind of sin that possibly could be identified as part of the American character.

Of the traditional seven sins, pride is certainly in the running—the blind boastful pride that tramples another's sensibility. In its most extreme, the feeling is that, while the nation is not quite completely blameless, it is a good and great force in the world, bringer of light and democracy, liberator of oppressed peoples. At home, the virtues of capitalism and political freedom produce the best country there could possibly be, an example to all.

While pride takes part in the race for the particular kind of sin identified with America, the winner has to be **greed**.

One of the founding American documents, the *Declaration of Independence*, famously proclaimed that among the inherent rights of all were “*life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness*.” Who doesn't know that phrase? Yet how truly revolutionary /unique it is among national manifestoes. Canada's constitution, for example, promises “peace, order and good government.” France's extols “liberty, equality, brotherhood.” This nation, however, makes a search for “happiness” part of its national persona.

The Declaration's ringing phrase has drawn millions of individuals to make this country their home, yet its underbelly might be considered the American sin. The current economic situation must, in part, be laid at the feet of those who pursued “happiness” in the manner of Ebenezer Scrooge, described by Charles Dickens in *A Christmas Carol* as a “wrenching, squeezing, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner.” Notice the author doesn't call him a “banker” or a “miser.”

We are in the midst of the fallout from a greed mania, beginning with the idea that ever-rising home prices would support fundamentally flawed lending practices. Greedy lenders colluded with borrowers who believed the real estate boom would support a debt-fueled lifestyle. The stock market's crash has exposed “investment managers” who lied to their clients and stole their money—but customers lined up to get returns they thought no one else could match and were, in the end, too good to be true. No one would argue with the idea that “pursuit of happiness” includes the desire to create a better life for current and future generations, but why should “the American dream” stand only for things—for the house, the car, the overstuffed closets?

Jesus had a fair bit to say about greed. He talked about “those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God:” about how “life is more than food and the body more than clothing.”

The church has something to say about it, too, something about knowing when enough is enough, when its time to share, when there are more important things than things, when sacrifice is called for in order to better the life of another.

The Episcopal Church spans the America of affluence (and greed) and parts of the world-and America- that aren't so well-off. Two of these places are Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. Greed may not be unknown in these places either, but they have lessons to teach the rest of the church about generosity and the pursuit of true happiness, in the face of desperate poverty.

Can we honestly say that all of our “things” make us truly happy, or should we be pursuing something more?

by Solange DeSantis, .Editor of Episcopal Life



Address label here

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Tracey Tallmadge

Wardens: Betty Vail

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR
COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY
AND ACTION

Afton, New York 13730

P. O. Box 22

St. Ann's Episcopal Church

The Final Word



**Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
Psalm 98: 5,7**

This month we celebrate the most joyful event in the Christian year... the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. And on the Sunday after Easter we will again celebrate that joy with what we call Holy Humor Sunday.

Joy is one of the attributes that sets Christianity apart from the other religions. And why not? Stop and think about it. How would you feel if a relative or close friend passed away and then you received word that they had come back to life? Maybe there would be shock, awe, disbelief, possibly fear. But there would also be joy. Jesus' disciples no doubt experienced all those emotions but certainly joy must have overcome all the others,

especially when they realized that Jesus had overcome death for them as well!

Should not we share in that joy? I think so. But look around you in church some Sunday. Are people joyful? If they are, some haven't let their faces know about it.

Research has proven that joy and humor are beneficial to our health. Of course this has been known long before modern medicine did any kind of research. Consider the following wisdom found in Proverbs.

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.

Proverbs 17:22a

A glad heart makes a happy face

Proverbs 15:13a

When eternal life is your hope, you can face every day with joy! How about you? Is the joyful news of Jesus' resurrection warming your heart? It should be. And when it does, be sure your face shows it!

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