

The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY

<http://www.stannsaftonny.org>



May 2015

Member of the Chenango District

Clergy The Reverend

Fr. David A. Hanselman

761-4601 cell

656-9502 office

Wardens:

-Betty Vail

639-1201

-Tracey Tallmadge

343-1301

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

From Fr. Dave

Let's start with a little joke - one of my favorite jokes, actually. We all know that "April showers bring May flowers, but what do May flowers bring?"

No doubt some of you already know, I've been sharing this joke enough. The rest will find the punchline at the end.

It really is good to joke around from time to time. From time to time, it's good to lighten our hearts a little. From time to time, we absolutely have to lighten our hearts. Of course, as with any good medicine, it has to be the right dosage at the right time.

Too much and we're fools, too little and we're unfeeling, incapable of sympathy or empathy.

But at the right time and with the right spirit behind it, a little joke and laughter can really help bring us together and remind us that there can be joy in life. Of course, the negative thing about joking is that oftentimes it brings people together when it's used to mock some person or group or idea.

When I think about how cold this last winter has been and the snow flurries we saw in late April, I can't help but think of one particular joke I heard frequently - on the coldest of days, some folks thought it funny to say, "How about that global warming?" But it made me sad. Any map of global temperature variations clearly showed that we were just about the only area with lower than average temps.

But, rather than get on my "high horse" about global warming - though I will remind you all once again that God specifically created humanity to be good stewards of God's creation (the word that is occasionally translated as "subdue" the world, is much, much closer to our notion of "take good care of") - my hope here is simply to focus attention on the fact that like any other action we take, humor can also be a way of healing, or it can be a way of furthering hurt.

Oh and, what do May flowers bring? Why, Pilgrims, of course! But, like the Pilgrims of old, coming to the new frontier to seek freedom, we too are pilgrims seeking to free the world from some collective deathwish and show the truth of God's love for all of God's creation. Amen.

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



May 3rd
Holy Humor Sunday

May 10th
Mother's Day breakfast,
catered by the men.

June 21 @ 10:00 am
[Annual 3 Parish](#)
[Picnic at Kellystone](#)



Annual 3 Parish Picnic At Kellystone
Sunday, June 21, 2015 at 10:00 am
 Bring a dish to pass and your table setting.

Fun For Everyone



Wonderful Worship



Notice

The Episcopal Church's 78th. triennial General Convention, will be held from June 25 to July 3, 2015, in Salt Lake City, UT, and will take up a number of key issues ranging from church-wide restructuring, to marriage equality, to the election of a new presiding bishop, to the church's relationship to alcohol. There is much that will unfold at General Convention this June. May the Spirit blow us where it will, and may we be prayerfully opened in the journey.

By the Rev. Dr. Cameron Partridge

The Church's semi annual United Thank Offering ingathering will be held during May. This is an important source of funds for "people helping" activities in this country and around the world. Please give it your prayerful consideration. There are "mite boxes" available in the Parish Hall as well as giving envelopes.

Service Schedule

	<u>Date</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
HC	May 3	T.Tallmadge	B.Vail	BV	TT	B.Vail/D.Vail
MP	May 10	A.Wieber	D.Becker	TV	---	D.Vail
HC	May 17	B.Vail	C.Tarvin	RF	DB	D.Becker/Jody
MP	May 24	B.Wright	A.Wieber	----	---	J.Proffitt
MP	May 31	T.Tallmadge	C.Tarvin	DV	---	T.Tallmadge
MP	June 7	J.Proffitt	B.Wright	JP	---	J.Proffitt

Morning Prayer:

May 10 - Tracey & Robin
 May 24 - Betty & Burke
 May 31 - Denise & Marissa

Church School:

May 3 - Melrose K.
 May 10 - Kerri V.
 May 17 - Marissa H.
 May 24 - No Church School
 May 31 - Betty V.

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>
May 3 Easter 5	22:24-30	Acts 8:26-40	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
May 10 Easter 6	98	Acts 10:44-48	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
May 17 Easter 7	1	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
May 24 Pent	104: 25-35,37	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14	Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May 31 1 Pent	29	Isaiah 6:1-8 or Canticle 2 or 13	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duty – Altar Guild for the month of May is Pat Tucker 639-1984. 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. No April Meeting

Kudos



THANKS! - Tom and Dan for Morning Prayer .

THANKS! - Burke and Jody for Morning Prayer.

THANKS! - Grace and Betty for Altar Guild Duty .

THANKS! - K.Vail, R.Felldin, B.Vail for teaching Church School



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!

Easter Flowers 2015

Given By:

Carol Tarvin

Tracey & Calvin Tallmadge

Judy Rettberg

Sandy & Jody Proffitt

Melrose Kelly

Woodie Robins

Robin Felldin

Denise Becker

Joyce Whitney

Marion Diehl

Amedo & Carol Cimini

Grace Affuso

Tom & Betty Vail

Joyce Whitney

Toni & Dana Weller

St. Ann's

In Memory Of:

Clyde Tarvin

All Our Loved Ones

Departed Loved Ones

Robert Crowley & Our Loved Ones

Our Loved Ones

Our Loved Ones

Robert, Scott, Jennie Fredenburg

Sola and Genevieve

Bob, Baby Sherry, Ray & Nora Mitchell

Elmer Diehl, Jr. & Wes Weller

Our Loved Ones

Tony

Our Loved Ones

Baby Sherry, Bob Whitney, Ray & Nora Mitchell

Don and Wes

Barbara & Fay Todd

Here We Go Again, Holy Humor Sunday

Some people suggest that churches and Christian publications may be failing to attract young people and the unchurched because they are viewed as offering a joyless and humorless Christianity, that God is never to be found laughing and that clergy are to be stern. It sometimes appears to these people that the Christmas angel announced to the shepherd:

“Behold, I bring you bad news of great sorrow for all the people!”

Certain people in our society have done their best to take Christmas away from us in December, by using the term “happy holidays” instead of Merry Christmas. Let’s not let them take Easter away from us too. We’d still like the right to say “Happy Easter!”-not “happy holiday.”

The Fellowship of Merry Christians, publisher of “The Joyful Noiseletter” has, for years, urged churches to resurrect a very old Christian tradition, begun by early Greek Christians.

This tradition is called “Holy Humor Sunday”, and is a way of shoring up people’s belief in the resurrection and encouraging us to look at the joy and good humor in our religion. Holy

Humor Sunday is typically held a Sunday after Easter in the belief that the resurrection should be celebrated with laughter as God’s joke in overturning the power of death. We have a Savior who, knowing that he was about to be betrayed, tortured, and crucified, told his disciples before his arrest: “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full.” We have a Savior who told his disciples” “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Where is the joy? Where is the good cheer? Whatever happened to the joyful, robust, soaring spirit and wit embodied in Francis of Assisi, Teresa of Avila, Philip Neri, Martin Luther, John

Wesley, Henry Ward Beecher, F. K. Chesterton, Charles Spurgeon, Will Rogers, C. S. Lewis, Malcolm Muggeridge, and many other Christian guideposts? Where is “the laughter of the redeemed?” That’s what Protestant theologian Jurgen Moltmann called it. While languishing in a Nazi prison, Moltmann became fascinated by the ongoing celebration of Jesus’ Resurrection by the early Christians that continued long after Easter Sunday. These post-Easter celebrations faded away in the past century, but in recent times, many churches are reviving this old custom on the Sunday after Easter (what the early Greek Christians called “Bright Sunday” but what is now being called “Holy Humor” Sunday.) Humor can also be a powerful evangelistic tool. There are many references in the bible that show that Jesus enjoyed a good party, e.g. the first miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana. “Holy Humor Sunday” isn’t sacrilegious, it’s good theology. God delights in our laughter and receives it as an act of worship. After all, the idea of it is that God, in fact, had the last laugh over death.

Won’t you join us on May 3?



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



Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers and sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

1 John 4:20—21

Love is mentioned frequently in several of the scripture lessons this month. In the Epistle for May 10th from which the quoted verses are taken, love appears no less than 26 times in 15 verses!

So, what is this love that John feels is worthy of all this attention? At the beginning of this lesson, he says "love is from God." And in the next sentence he says "God is love." Is this love one of feeling? Or is it one of action? It seems to me to be one of action. In other words, if we love each other as God loves us, our lives will

undergo a real transformation. Love will change our outlook, it will change our values and ultimately this will transform our lives.

We see some evidence of this transforming love at St. Ann's: when we provide meals and gifts for families in need at Christmas and Thanksgiving; when we provide support, comfort and compassion to members of our parish family and when we reach out to our community by supporting the Food Pantry and people in need.

God's love is a forgiving love, a sacrificing love and a love that reaches out without waiting for the other person to make the first move. This is the love that we claim to share as set forth in our mission statement. It is the love that, if manifested in our lives, will lead people to want what we've got. And that's an easy way to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and to bring others to experience that love. May God grant us the grace to accept that love and show it forth in our lives!

PCV