

The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, ND

Member of the Chenango District

February 2013

Clergy: The Reverend David A. Hanselman

761-4601 (e)

656-9502 (o)

Wardens:

-Tracey Tallmadge
343-1301

-Judy Rettberg
208-4084

In an emergency, please contact one of the wardens



Make a Note

Feb. 9th—Safe Church Training at Zion Church in Greene starts at 8:30 am

-Feb. 17th—Vestry will meet in the parish hall after fellowship and snacks.

Ash Wednesday falls on February 13th in 2013. Service with imposition of ashes begins at 7 pm. at St. Ann's.

Feb. 20th—Wed. Lenten Program begins with soup and bread at 5:30 pm. In St. Ann's Parish Hall.

From Fr. Dave

Greetings everyone!

Lent is coming! Lent is coming! Will you be ready?

I don't mean to be too alarmist (heaven knows there's more than enough alarmists in the world), but Lent is quickly approaching. Have you decided yet what you'll give up? Or, my preferred practice, have you decided to take on some additional thing. Now, before you start saying, "But Fr Dave, I already do so much! I already run myself ragged doing so many things!" let me explain and offer an example or two.

We all become so busy with so many things that we oftentimes forget to do the simplest, easiest things that can make a big difference in our lives and the lives of those around us. There are some very simple things we can add to our day that might actually make our day go a bit more easily. Imagine! *Add* something to your day and your day will be *easier*!

While you may not have the time every morning to do even a short reading from the Bible, I guarantee you that you have the time and opportunity to tell your loved ones, "I love you" an extra time or two every morning - and then again every afternoon - and then again every evening. I can almost guarantee you that you have an opportunity every day to look at a stranger and smile and nod or even say, "Good morning."

But, since you may not have quite enough time to read much more of what I have to say, let me just finish up and tell you that God has blessed you in many, many ways. Take a breath and look around. Take a breath and let the burdens you carry fall away behind you. Look around and know that God loves God's creation.

Now, close your eyes and know that Jesus Christ blesses and heals. When you open your eyes again, remember your Baptism and know that you too can bless and heal.

At some point every day, you can take the time to take an intentional breath and remember that God breathed the breath of life in you. Add something to your day to make it go just a bit easier - a bit easier just because you remember your blessings.

The Lord be with you today, and every day!

Fr Dave +

Service Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>OT Reader</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
HC Feb 3	D.Becker	C.Johnson	JP	C.Johnson	D.Becker/A.Cimini
MP Feb 10	C.Johnson	D.Vail	PV	----	S.Proffitt
HC Feb 17	C.Cimini	R.Felldin	RF	C.Cimini	A.Cimini/J.Proffitt
MP Feb 24	J.Proffitt	C.Johnson	TV	----	J.Proffitt
HC Mar 3	S.Proffitt	D.Becker	BV	D.Becker	B.Vail/S.Proffitt

MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO READ, EM and ACOLYTE. YOUR SERVICE TO ST. ANN'S IS APPRECIATED.

Morning Prayer Leaders: Feb. 10 - Robin & Tracey Feb. 24 - Stephanie & Jody	Church School Leaders: Feb. 3 - T. Vail Feb. 10 - Feb. 17 - Feb. 24 - Mar. 3 -
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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 C)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Feb. 3 4 Epiphany	71:1-6	Jeremiah 1:4-10	1 Corinthians 13: 1-13	Luke 4:21-30
Feb. 10 Last Epiphany	99	Exodus 34:29-35	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]
Feb. 13 Ash Wednesday	103	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Feb. 17 Lent 1	91:1-2,9-16	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
Feb. 24 Lent 2	27	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35
Mar. 3 Lent 3	63:1—8	Exodus 3:1—15	1 Corinthians 10:1—13	Luke 13:1—9

Some Super Bowl Sunday Definitions

“Blitz” - The rush for the doors following the benediction. “Flex Defense” - The ability to allow absolutely nothing during the sermon to affect your life. “Two-minute Warning” - The point at which you realize the service is almost over and begin to gather up your belongings. “Sudden Death” - What happens to the congregation’s attention span if the preacher goes overtime.

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duty—Tracey Tallmadge (639-1493) If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the altar on a particular Sunday, call Tracey. If you are giving flowers in memory of a loved one, sign up on the bulletin board in the parish hall and please notify Pete Vail (639-1444) by no later than the Wednesday before the designated Sunday so that he can include a notice in the Sunday bulletin.

Vestry Highlights 12/9/12

1. Outreach: Decided that the Jan. outreach of \$200 would go to Good Shepherd Communities Foundation..
2. Agreed that the Afton Community Theater (ACT) be allowed to use the parish hall for practices of "9 To 5."
3. .Safe Church Training will be held at Zion Church, Greene on Feb. 9th, 8:30—12:30.
4. Treasurer noted that St. Ann's finished the year 2012 with a positive cash flow of approx. \$3400, especially notable given that we made capital improvements of nearly \$4300.

NOTE: St. Paul's spaghetti dinner will start Feb 2nd from 5-7 pm in their Parish House. It's a freewill offering and there'll be a 50/50 raffle to benefit Oxford's food pantry.

Shrove Tues/Ash Wed through Holy Week/Easter

Tues Feb 12 - Shrove Tuesday

Zion community pancake supper - 5-7 pm?

St Paul's parish pancake supper w/ Imposition of Ashes - 5:30-7 pm

Wed Feb 13 - Ash Wednesday

Greene ecumenical service - 12 noon at Immaculate Conception

St Ann's HE/Imposition - 7 pm

Lenten program at St Ann's 6 pm

Wed Feb 20 - St Ann's provide soup

Wed Feb 27 - Zion provide soup

Wed March 6 (wardens mtg 5:30) - St Paul's provide soup

Wed March 13 - St Ann's provide soup

Wed March 20 - Zion provide soup

Sunday March 24th - Palm Sunday

St Ann's HE 9:15 am

Zion HE 11 am

St Paul's HE 11 am (Fr Bruce)

Thursday March 28 - Maundy Thursday

St Ann's HE - 7 pm

Zion EP - 7 pm followed by Night Watch

Friday March 29 - Good Friday

Zion - 7:30 am

St Paul's - 12 noon

Zion ecumenical service - 12 noon

St Ann's - 7 pm

Saturday March 30 - Holy Saturday

St Ann's - Easter Vigil - 7 pm

Sunday March 31 - Easter Sunday

St Ann's - 9 am ←**NOTE**

Zion - 11 am

St Paul's - 11 am (Fr Bruce)

monthly spaghetti

Kudos



Thanks! to all who decorated the church for Christmas and then "un-greened" it after the Christmas season.. It was beautiful! **Thanks!** to the men who put up (and took down) the manger scene. **Thanks!** to Jan Morning Prayer leaders: Carol & Mado Cimini and Cindy Johnson & Judy Rettberg. Many **Thanks!** To those who lead Church School for our young people in January: Robin Felldin, Sandy Proffitt, Kerri Vail, Melrose Kelly and Tom Vail.

Snowbirds

Pat and Al Tucker have headed south. Their address is: P. O Box 1225, Bushnell, FL 33513. Nancy and David Setford are also heading south. Their winter address is: 706 Parker Den Drive, Ruskin, Florida 33570. Nancy's cell phone number is: 607-743-1060.

Chenango District Doings

1. North Afton United Methodist Church is holding their ham & corned beef supper, March 2nd, from 5 pm to ?
2. Statements requesting ICC "dues" will be out soon. It remains at \$100 per church.
3. March 9th from 11 am to 1 pm soup & sandwich lunch at Afton Presbyterian Church. Goal is to hold these every other month. Donations accepted but not required.
4. Feb. 2nd from 4:30 pm to ?, Soup Supper.at Afton Presbyterian Church.
5. Ed Hromada and Jerry Matthews will be doing the breakfast after the Easter Sunrise Service. Ed is looking for a replacement who would work with him this year to train for 2013.
6. ICC committed to give Hope Congregational Church \$200 to go towards electricity and heat. Some discussion on individual ICC members donating as well.
7. Next meeting at St. Agnes on April 28th beginning at 6 pm, NOTE 6 pm.

How's Your Balance?

An organization's mission statement can be thought of as its "marching orders," that is, what it should be focused on doing. It should be examined periodically to see if it still applies and if the organization is still focusing on accomplishing it. The following attempts to do that.

How familiar are you with St. Ann's Mission Statement? It can be found on the first and last pages of this newsletter and it always appears in our Sunday bulletin. It is: ***"Sharing God's love in our community through prayer, study and action."*** It was developed several years ago by the Vestry at that time. So, how are we doing?

Prayer: (What are we doing to get closer to God and gain insight in what it means to be a Christian?) Most of us do a pretty good job of praying, via our corporate worship (Eucharist and Morning Prayer) and, hopefully, in our personal prayer lives. Of course, we can always do better, keeping in mind that praying involves not only talking to God but also listening for what He may be telling us.

Study: (What are we doing to better understand the word of God?) My guess is that most of us don't do such a good job in this area. This would include Bible reading, Bible study (there is a difference!), reading Christian literature (check out St. Ann's library) and even listening to Christian music and radio (tune into 88.5 FM or 90.7 FM to hear some good Christian programming.) Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday (Feb. 13th) and we will have Lenten Study led by David Hanselman on the succeeding Wednesdays in Lent. This would be a great time to improve the Study aspect of your spiritual journey.

Action: (What are you doing to share God's love with others?) Here's where the rubber meets the road; here's where we put our money where our mouth is. Simply going to church, praying and learning about God does nothing to spread His Kingdom. We are commanded to share it with others. Suggestion: talk to an un-churched friend or acquaintance. You need say nothing more than what your faith means to you and then simply invite them to join you at St. Ann's for Sunday worship. As the Nike ad states, **"JUST DO IT!"**

The Christian Life has been compared to a three-legged stool where the three legs (corresponding to Prayer, Study and Action) support the Christian Life. Unless all three legs are approximately equal, the stool will not stand properly. The coming season of Lent is a perfect time to work on improving the balance in our spiritual journey.

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 for whom we have been asked to pray. The clergy of the Chenango District have been included. Please remember these people in your personal prayers. Send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 639-1201.

Kaitlin	Sally	Betty	Cindy
Carol	Darin	Pat	Tony Moran
Peter	Mary	Mya	Fr. Chuck Taylor
Jeri	Joyce	Holly	Fr. David Hanselman
Michele	Charles	Jim	Fr. Bruce MacDuffie
Jane	Kody	Michael	Bishop "Skip" Adams

The following was written by The Rev. Nickolas Servetas, Rector of Christ Church, Deposit, NY and is used here with his permission.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I put off writing this letter until today. You see yesterday December 21, 2012 was supposed to be the end of the world, so why waste my time. Well, as you know, it didn't happen. I was not surprised. I much more so believe that the world, as we know it, will someday end, and that day will be the day Christ returns and according to Matthew's gospel chapter 25 verse 13: "Watch therefore; for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." (KJV).

Why are people so quick to listen to false prophets, (those who go around preaching their own brand of religion) rather than listening to what God is trying to tell us in His Holy Word? Even as I ask that question I believe I have the answer. As a society we are biblically illiterate. It is my opinion that very few of us have any idea what God says or even who God is.

Have you noticed that in the aftermath of a tragedy how quickly we turn to God? We pray. We ask God's blessing. We pray for God's will to be done, etc. and yet, in good times, we reject prayer in our schools; prayer at our social functions; displays of anything Godly in public places such as the Ten Commandments or nativity scenes. And yet Santa Claus who adorns our lawns and shopping malls is never ending.

Prayer in school?—not until tragedy strikes—then we see everybody turn to God in prayer, president, governors, police, parents and students alike. It is a blessing that God has a special place for little children because if it were left up to us they would not even know that God existed.

So many times I hear parents tell me that "I am going to wait until my children are old enough then they can decide for themselves as to whether to go to church or not." My question is: how old is old enough and how are they going to make an informed decision about something to which they are never exposed? How are they going to have hope in an eternal God and life after death if they are never taught about these things? When they hear mommy and daddy praying to God, what does it mean to them?

Take them to church on Sunday? Can't, not with all the activities that fill their little lives. Besides it's my only day off. Pray at home as a family? Not me, that's embarrassing. Say grace in public? Never. And yet, when things go really wrong, the first place we ourselves turn is to God—no embarrassment if we cry in public and blurt our prayers to Jesus Christ. Shouldn't our children have that same sanctuary to which to turn?

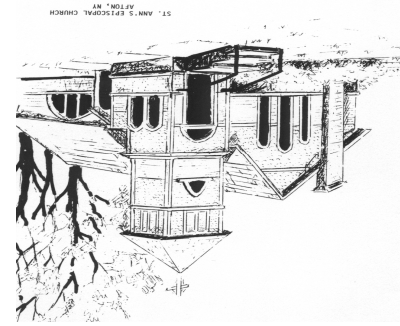
It's almost Christmas and I do want to wish each and everyone of you a joyous and blessed Yuletide season. If it was not for Christmas and God's grace in sending His Son to live with us there would be no hope for us or the world or our children. The world might just as well have ended yesterday. However, there is hope. There is hope for the children of Sandy Hook and there is hope for each of us. Hope for a better life and a better world and mostly hope for eternal life with God in heaven forever. Have a blessed Christmas and in the New Year make a commitment to see that your children know God and that you will make your God known to all you interact with in this life.

Fr. Nick

Recipe for a Happy New Year..... Anonymous

Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past—have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest,) hope fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing—don't do it,) prayer meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play and a heaping cupful of good humor.



Address label here

Worship Services: Sunday 9:15 am

Judy Rettberg

Wardens: Tracey Tallmadge

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



Just as they were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — not knowing what he said.
Luke 9:33

Peter's and his companions are on a mountain with Jesus and they drift off to sleep while he is praying. Then they are awakened when Jesus is transfigured. It is interesting to read of Peter's first response when he wakes up and sees the changed Jesus along with Moses and Elijah. He wants to build a dwelling for each of them.

Think about it. Isn't that often what we try to do with God? Put Him in a dwelling (or what some would call a box?) It's a natural thing to do. Our minds have a difficult time conceptualizing an entity that always was and always will be, that is all powerful, all knowing and yet loves and knows each of us individually. So it is only natural that we think of God in our image

instead of the other way around. Unfortunately this limits our relationship with God and we forget that with God all things are possible. Instead, we live in anxiety when prayer could bring us peace. We feel lonely even though God is always with us. We are fearful when faith could calm our trembling. We wallow in despair when God offers us joy.

God has made us joint heirs with Christ. He offers us innumerable blessings and promises, promises that are exceedingly great and precious. Grab them. Claim them for your life. Don't limit God. The Lord of the impossible is waiting for you to call on His name. Will you call on Him now?
PCV

(Reprinted from Feb. 2010 edition)

A Christian is...

- A mind through which Christ thinks
- A heart through which Christ loves
- A voice through which Christ speaks
- A hand through which Christ works