

The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, ND

Member of the Chenango District

March 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

-Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27 —
Lenten Study Series
starts at 6:00 pm in St.
Ann's Parish Hall

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

-See page 3 for detailed
Holy Week schedule.

From Fr. Dave

March. It may come in like a lion, but this year it will go out *Agnus Dei!*

March. Marching forward toward Easter morning! Coincidentally enough, during this Lenten "march" toward Easter, I've discovered and have read a small book entitled "Walking".

While the title itself was attractive enough, since it's one of my all-time favorite authors, Henry David Thoreau, I just had to read it. Now, I hope I can express myself clearly with what I'm about to say, but I'm afraid I might not. You see, as I was reading this thoroughly enjoyable little book (long essay, really), it occurred to me that Thoreau is a favorite author, but not because I like reading him. That is, as beautiful and brilliant as his writing is, when I read him, more than anything, I want to *be him*.

But, that's not entirely accurate either. I don't want to be him. I admire him for the individual that he was, but I could never be that person. I guess it's most accurate to say that reading Thoreau compels, and impels, me to go out and do things. It inspires me to be the person I *can* be - *not* the person that merely conforms to my limited imagination of what I can be - rather, the person that *only God knows I can be*.

Certainly, Thoreau is a remedy for the modern life. Call it an "occupational hazard" but I can't help but compare his writings to Scripture. There was a time when Scripture "compelled and impelled" people to go out and do wonderful things. Then there was a time when Scripture was used to restrain and tame. Now, for many, Scripture has become all but irrelevant; which is really to say that people are free - free to relate to Scripture (or any other thing) in whatever way they choose.

Freedom. Choice. Two wonderful words, except when we're ignorant of what they fully mean, where they come from and where we go with them.

Easter is coming. Wonderful and glorious Easter! For 2000 years, annually (and weekly!) it's been the resounding echo of the day God acted and freely chose to show humanity what God's real plan for humanity is - the first day of God's new creation. Amen and Alleluia!

Fr. David

Service Schedule

<u>Svc. Date</u>	<u>OT Reader</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
HC Mar 3	S.Proffitt	D.Becker	BV	D.Becker	B.Vail/S.Proffitt
MP Mar 10	R.Felldin	C.Johnson	TV	-----	D.Becker
HC Mar 17	D.Becker	M.Harding	AC	D.Becker	D.Becker/J.Proffitt
HC Mar 24	C.Cimini	A.Cimini	---	C.Johnson	A.Cimini/B.Vail
HC Mar 31	C.Johnson	D.Becker	---	C.Cimini	A.Cimini/D.Becker
HC Apr. 7	J.Proffitt	C.Johnson	CJ	J.Rettberg	S.Proffitt/J.Proffitt

Easter Sunday Torch Bearers – Allyson Vail and Laurin Felldin

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

Morning Prayer Leaders:
March 10 – A & C. Cimini

Church School Leaders:
March 3 - M. Harding
March 10 - B.Vail
March 17 - R.Felldin

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>
Mar. 3 Lent 3	63:1-8	Exodus 3:1-15	1 Corinthians 10: 1-13	Luke 13:1-9
Mar. 10 Lent 4	32	Joshua 5:9-12	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15-1-3, 11b-32
Mar. 17 Lent 5	126	Isaiah 43:16-21	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Mar. 24 Palm Sunday	118:1-2, 19-29	Luke 19:28-40	(Liturgy of the Palms)	
Mar. 31 Easter	118:1-2, 14-24	Acts 10:34-43	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	John 20:1-18
Apr. 7 Easter 2	118:14-29	Acts 5:27-32	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31

Important Notes

Brass cleaning will begin at 9 a.m. on Monday, March 18th in the Parish Hall. Anyone with some extra time to spare, is most welcome to help with the brass.

If you wish to purchase an Easter Lily, please contact Betty Vail (639-1201) ASAP.

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duty—Tracey Tallmadge (639-1493) and Betty Vail (639-1201) If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the altar on a particular Sunday, call Tracey .or Betty. 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 to donate \$400 to Epiphany in Sherburne toward repair of steeple and work to resolve pigeon problem.
2. April outreach will go to Afton Food Pantry.
3. Reviewed Parochial Report and approved it.
4. Treasurer reported that fuel oil usage for 2012 is down significantly from 2011. It is thought to be due to extra insulation.
5. Afton Food Pantry looking for coordinator.
6. Fr. David reports that he has decided against pursuing Army Chaplaincy at this time.
7. Treasurer noted that cash flow for the beginning of 2013 is ok as can be determined from the short time span starting with Jan. 1st.

Schedule for Remainder of Lent Through Holy Week/Easter

Lenten program at St Ann's 6 pm
 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
 Afton Community Sunrise Service (6:30 a.m.) at Afton Presbyterian Church followed by breakfast.
 St Ann's - 9:00 am ←NOTE
 Zion - 11 am
 St Paul's - 11 am (Fr Bruce)



He is Risen!

Kudos



Thanks! to February Morning Prayer leaders: Robin Felldin & Tracey Tallmadge and Jody & Stephanie Proffitt. Many **Thanks!** to Ron Sherman who, in the winter, keeps our parking lot plowed and salted as required. He is the same one who keeps St. Ann's outside plant looking well-groomed in the summertime. **Thanks!** to Betty Vail for handling all the "duty rosters" and putting together the service schedule. It's a big help when newsletter time rolls around. **Thanks!** to Judy Rettberg for handling the greeting card ministry.

Snowbirds

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

Afton Interchurch Council

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. The Easter Sunrise Community Service will be at 6:30 a.m. at the Afton Presbyterian Church. 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 2014..
5. ICC committed to give Hope Congregational Church \$200 to go towards electricity and heat. Some discussion on individual ICC members donating as well.
6. Next meeting at St. Agnes on April 28th beginning at 6 pm, NOTE 6 pm.

Building New Relationships Takes Time

Why is it that we hesitate to invite our friends, neighbors and colleagues to church? We don't hesitate to invite them to a basketball game, concert, theater, dinner, dancing, but we are afraid to say, "Please come and be with us at our church on Sunday morning. It is a great place to be. We find it most enjoyable to be there. Here are the dates of special events coming up that I know you would enjoy. If you like, we could go together."

When did we start thinking that this one invitation is all we need and that we have done our duty in trying to get our church to grow and introducing our friends to a community of faith that is mostly foreign to our culture?

Going to church is no longer the norm. Unfortunately, it is the exception. As the Rev. Lyda K. Hawes states in the Leader Resources program *Open Doors*, "remember that it takes the average buyer three times before they actually hear the offer and seven times before they buy."

If that's how the human brain works, why do we think that our invitation will be heard and accepted the first time?

We, as members of a congregation, attend on a regular basis and mistakenly assume that getting new members in our church is up to the clergy and paid program staff. (If your church is large enough to have a paid program staff) Indeed it is part of their job, but they cannot do it alone.

Here is another statistic, from *Open Doors*: over 90 percent of newcomers who are not already looking for a church say they came to church because they were invited by someone they knew. Building true meaningful relationships takes time. One invitation, "Hope you will come to our church," isn't going to do it.

Open Doors instructs in an organized and non-threatening way how to incorporate not only new members but long-time members whose talents have not been used, simply because their talents have not been identified.

Most of the time, people are just waiting to be asked. They are out there and need to be involved to feel a part of the church community. All we need to do is to set out purposefully to find them.

Advancing the kingdom of God takes intentional and goal-oriented work. Work with the intention of accepting and embracing new persons into our church family.

Nancy Summers, canon for children's ministries in the Diocese of Arizona.

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	Beverly	Cindy
Carol	Darin	Pat	Tony Moran
Peter	Mary	Mya	Fr. Chuck Taylor
Jeri & John	Joyce	Holly	Fr. David Hanselman
Michele	Charles	Jim	Fr. Bruce MacDuffie
Jane	Kody	Sharlene	Bishop "Skip" Adams
Evelyn	Helen	Eleanor	
Ken	Chuck		

Afton Food Pantry

During the months of March and April, all monies donated to the Afton Food Pantry will be used to determine matching funds to be donated by the Alan Feinstein Foundation. This is an annual challenge through which this foundation helps to alleviate the hunger problem in the United States. For the 16th consecutive year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among hunger fighting agencies nationwide, using it to help them raise funds during March and April 2013.

Donations to the Afton Food Pantry will be tallied and submitted to the Feinstein Foundation so that our local food pantry can receive a proportionate amount of the \$1 million dollars.

This year it is setting aside \$1 Million to be distributed proportionately among all participating food pantries. Please do what you can so that the Afton Food Pantry can again receive a part of this generous donation of matching funds. Donations can be:

-Checks: payable to Afton Interchurch Council,
mailed to Diane Gardner, Treasurer, 1038 Co. Rt. 30, Afton, NY 13730
memoed "Afton Food Pantry Feinstein Challenge,"
dated between March 1 and April 30 and
received by May 1, 2013, will count for the challenge.

-Canned and boxed food items may be brought to the Food Pantry, located at the Afton United Methodist Church, 36 Spring St., Afton, NY, during the months of March and April and will count toward the challenge, with a value of \$1 per item. Only currently dated, staple food items in undamaged original containers can be accepted.

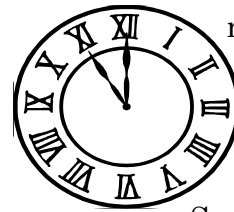
The Afton Food Pantry is open on Mondays from 5 pm—7 pm, and on Wednesdays from 9 am to 11 am. The Food Pantry continues to serve a substantial number of families, the elderly and individuals in the Afton community. Local support is appreciated. The Pantry is staffed by volunteers, and all funds and food received are used exclusively by the Food Pantry to help local people in need.

St. Patrick's Day Blessings

"May the hand of a friend always be near you. May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you."

"May love be ever in your heart, May joy be yours to share, And wherever your dreams lead you, May contentment meet you there!"

Important Note: Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 10th. Remember to set your clocks ahead by one hour on Saturday night, March 9th or you will be an hour late for church! Remember: Spring ahead!



Getting a Start on Holy Humor Sunday

-From a Holy Week church bulletin describing the Maundy Thursday service:

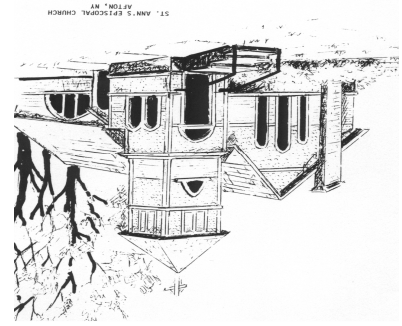
"We will strip the altar and sanctuary of all color and symbol. Together, we will leave the church bare and in silence."

-Heavenly Messages

- 1) The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.
- 2) You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving.
- 3) Seven days without prayer makes one weak.
- 4) Exercise daily — walk with the Lord.

Bumper Sticker: "Are you following Jesus this closely?"

Note: This year we will celebrate Holy Humor Sunday on April 21st, not April 7th as would usually be the case.



Address label here

Worship Services: Sunday 9:15 am

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman
Wardens: Tracey Tallmadge
Judy Retberg

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

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

The Final Word



No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide you the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

How often, when finding ourselves in a situation that tests us do we say, "Why me, Lord?" Paul, in his 1st letter to the Christians in Corinth, provides the answer: You are no different than anyone else, (i.e., why not you?) God will see that you get through it. And, although it may be difficult to see it while we're being tested, it's likely that we'll grow from the experience. The secret is having faith that God is with us to get us through it.

Peter, in his first letter, elaborates on the benefits of enduring testing and maintaining that faith. He says, "May God bless you with his special favor and wonderful peace as you come to

know Jesus, our God and Lord, better and better.

"As we know Jesus better and better, his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness! And by that same mighty power, he has given us all of his rich and wonderful promises.

"So make every effort to apply the benefits of these promises to your life. Then your faith will produce a life of moral excellence. A life of moral excellence leads to knowing God better. Knowing God leads to self-control. Self-control leads to patient endurance, and patient endurance leads to godliness. Godliness leads to love for other Christians, and finally you will grow to have genuine love for everyone. The more you grow like this, the more you will become productive and useful in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." What more can we ask?

PCV