

# The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, MD

Member of the Chenango District

November 2013

Clergy The Reverend David  
A. Hanselman

761-4601 cell 656-9502 office

Wardens:

-Judy Rettberg

208-4084

-Tracey Tallmadge

343-1301

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



## Make a Note

-Nov. 3rd: Daylight Savings Time ends. Set clocks back 1 hr.

-Nov. 9th: Worship Leader Training Workshop at St. Ann's. Coffee and donuts at 8:30 a.m.

-Nov. 17th: Vestry will meet following fellowship time.

-Nov. 26th: Afton Community Thanksgiving Service at Afton United Methodist Church, 7 p.m.

-Nov 28th: Afton Community Thanksgiving meal at Afton United Methodist Church.

## From Fr. David

Greetings all!

I should admit right up front that I'm at a bit of a loss as to what to write for this month. My mind is still frequently occupied by the thought that we need to bring this country back together. By no means should we all think alike, but by any means necessary we should respect one another. Okay, "by any means necessary" might sometimes include very disrespectful actions (some very mean means!), so I retract that statement. But, please, please, please, be part of the healing of this nation and not just another divisive, spiteful, disrespectful force that sees our differences as poison. For Christ's sake - care for one another. But if your brand of caring still involves hurting others, then see Christ's example of what caring really is all about.

Or, I could tell you about a great conversation I had a couple weeks ago when someone asked why I chose the Episcopal Church. But, ultimately, the answer simply harkens back to the above paragraph - I embrace Anglicanism b/c Anglicanism essentially embraces two very different traditions - Roman Catholic and Protestant. In other words, our Anglican approach to living a life in Christ is supposed to care for all sides.

Sometimes, all too often, the church itself has had a brand of caring which has hurt others. Time and time again, the church has to call itself back to a memory of Christ's example of what caring, real caring, really is all about.

Now, I'm not such an idealist or pacifist that I don't think there's ever anything to fight against (Lord help me), but time and time again, as I dig deeper in the supposed divisions that supposedly define and irreparably divide us, I find time and again there is still so much more that unites us.

Our differences are almost completely superficial (neither side is bound to believe that, I know). Our hearts are still American. But our words cut so deeply. Why have we made ourselves the enemy? Why do we allow all the accusers (the ancient meaning of Satan), to control the media, our perceived reality? I've seen an honest, caring, thoughtful man from Sidney vilified for being honest and thoughtful. Is this the America we really want?

I pray December brings in a much more cheerful prospect...

May God bless and keep all of you.

David +

# Service Schedule

Date	OT Reader	Epistle	CS	EM	Acolytes
HC Nov. 3	C. Cimini	B. Wright	AC	C. Cimini	A. Cimini/B. Vail
MP Nov. 10	R. Felldin	T. Tallmadge	JP	-----	B. Vail/T. Tallmadge
MP Nov. 17	D. Becker	M. Harding	PV	-----	J. Proffitt
MP Nov. 24	J. Proffitt	S. Proffitt	JP	-----	B. Vail
HC Dec. 1	M. Harding	D. Becker	AC	-----	A. Cimini/J.Proffitt

<b>Morning Prayer:</b>	<b>Church School:</b>
Nov. 10 - Carol & Mado Cimini	Nov. 3 - Baptism (no church school)
Nov. 17 - J. Rettberg & T. Tallmadge	Nov. 10 - T. Vail
Nov. 24 - T. Tallmadge & R. Felldin	Nov. 17 - S. Proffitt
	Nov. 24 - J. Proffitt

**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)

Date	Psalm	OT Reading	Epistle	Gospel	
Nov. 3	Pentecost 24	119:137-144	Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,11-12	Luke 19:1-10
Nov. 10	Pentecost 25	145: 1-5, 18-22	Haggai 1:15b-2:9	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17	Luke 20:27-38
Nov. 17	Pentecost 26	Canticle 9	Isaiah 65:17-25	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19
Nov. 24	Last Pentecost	Canticle 4	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43
Dec. 1	Advent 1	122	Isaiah 2:1-5	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44

## Altar Guild

**Altar Guild Duty**—Carol Cimini & Melrose Kelly. If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the altar on a particular Sunday, call either Carol C. (693-2907,) or Melrose (639-1090) or Betty Vail (639-1201). 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. Anyone with flowers to donate let Betty know. She is willing to make flower arrangements for any Sunday. Anyone interested in learning more about the Altar Guild should also contact Betty.

## Important Announcement

A brass cleaning session is scheduled for Nov. 15th at 5 p.m. to get things spruced up for Advent, Thanksgiving and Christmas and to provide instruction on cleaning the brass. Please come and help. Remember, many hands make light work!

## Vestry Highlights—October 2010

1. Outreach: Voted to send \$200 to the “The Place” in Norwich to support work with youngsters.
2. A Service Leader Workshop is being conducted at St. Ann’s starting with coffee and donuts at 8:30 pm on Nov. 9th.
3. Decided to set November 10th as Stewardship Sunday.
4. UTO Fall Ingathering will be Nov. 3rd
5. Decided to run the “Secret Santa” event.
6. We will be setting up the Angel Tree earlier this year to give people more time to do shopping.
7. Reviewed and approved the proposed 2014 budget.
8. Treasurer Pete Vail presented account balances and cash flow reports. Our cash flow is positive.

### Snowbirds

Carol Tarvin is now at her winter residence in Florida. Her address is:

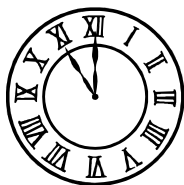
Ms. Carol Tarvin  
5123 Curran St.  
Zephyrhills, Florida 33542-5379

### Afton Interchurch Council Items

The **Community Thanksgiving Day (11/28) meal will be held at the Afton United Methodist Church. Check Tri-Town News for time. St. Ann’s will be asked to provide 6 pies.** The **Afton area Ecumenical Thanksgiving service** will be held at The Afton United Methodist Church on Tues., 11/26 at 7 pm. The **Afton Christmas Parade** will take place on Saturday, December 1st, starting at 5:30 pm. **Christmas Bazaar** at North Afton Methodist Church starting at 9 a.m. Nov. 2nd. **Christmas Coffee House** at the Afton Presbyterian Church on Dec. 14th starting at 7 p.m.. All are welcome.

### Important Notice

Daylight Savings Time ends on the first Sunday in November, we need to set microwave ovens **BACK** 1 hour. Remember forward, fall invited to enjoy sleep on November 3rd but please join us for worship at St. Ann’s at 9:15 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.



11/3. That means our clocks, watches, pens, VCR’s, etc.

the saying, spring back. Everyone is an extra hour of

## Kudos



**THANKS!** to all who serve on the Vestry of St. Ann’s. **THANKS!** to Denise Becker & Betty Vail and Betty Vail & Burke Wright for leading our Morning Prayer services in October. **THANKS!** to Carol Vail for her help proof-reading, collating, folding, addressing and affixing postage to the newsletter and **THANKS!** To Betty Vail for recruiting volunteers to do readings, Chalice Bearing and Acolyting.

**Repeating a request:** It is difficult for one person (me) to keep track of every person who should be thanked. If you know of someone, please let me know by either email or just a scribbled note or even word of mouth by phone or at Sunday coffee hour. Thanks! Pete Vail

### UTO Fall Ingathering

The United Thank Offering is a great way to demonstrate our thankfulness for God’s daily blessings in our lives. Even a few coins offered in thanksgiving each day can add up to a significant amount over 6 months. And when these individual offerings are gathered together, great things can be done. St. Ann’s UTO Fall Ingathering will take place on Sunday, November 3rd. Please be sure that your offering is identified as **UTO** by using the UTO envelope, the UTO Blue Box or write “UTO” on the memo line of your check.

### Stewardship Sunday

**Just as a reminder,  
Stewardship Sunday  
will be November 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**It is most helpful in planning for a new church year, if your vestry has some idea of the level of financial support for the Parish. This is the reason for the mailing of our “intention” cards, which will be done shortly. Please give your prayerful consideration to your financial support for 2014.**

As the TV ad used to say, “thank you for your support.”  
**St. Ann’s Stewardship Committee**

## 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	Toni	Cindy
Carol	Pat	Jen	Lou
Peter	Mary	Mya	Gloria
Fay	Joyce	Holly	Fr. Chuck Taylor
Michele	Kody	Edna	Fr. David Hanselman
Al	Clifford		Fr. Bruce MacDuffie
St. Peter's Church in their search for a rector			Bishop "Skip" Adams
			Pope Francis

The following prayer is suggested by Bishop Skip. It is from the Evening Prayer and Compline services 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.*

## **Giving Thanks**

Everyone remembers the Thanksgiving story of what our forebears did in 1620-1621. A small group of Puritans set out on the *Mayflower* for Virginia. On their way, enduring tremendously high seas and hardships, they were eventually blown off course only to land in Cape Cod. The winter ahead of them was horrendous, and by spring, only fifty of the original 102 survived. Many began to discuss that perhaps they should give up hope and go back to the Old World. Yet their hearty spirits prevailed and they decided instead to stay on and plant corn and barley.

When the anniversary of their landing arrived, discussion arose as to how it should be recognized. Some proposed a day of mourning so that attention could be focused on those who died in the previous year and whose remains were now lying in graves far away from home. But then others suggested something much more profound – a thanksgiving for the fifty who survived, the good harvest of their first year's work and befriending the Native Americans who could have received them with savagery rather than welcome. It was as if the Pilgrims were echoing their understanding of authentic thanksgiving. Rather than focusing on what they did not have, they chose instead to think on all the ways – big and small – that they had been blessed.

I have sometimes wondered had those Pilgrims chosen to mourn rather than give thanks, would they have had the courage to hold on as they did? Probably not, and we might not have the nation we enjoy today!

I invite you to ponder the role thanksgiving plays in your life. Not Thanksgiving Day, but the spiritual discipline of thanksgiving. You can do that in prayer, meditation and in the way you respond by giving back of your time, talent and resources to your parish family. All of us, regardless of where we live, how much we earn or how much we own, are richly blessed.

Being here at all, living in the United States, we are very blessed. So what do you say? Let us work together on being a lot more thankful. May our prayer be that of wonderful old George Herbert, "*Thou has given so much to me...Give me one thing more – a grateful heart.*" Amen to that!

The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr. St. Martin's, Houston, Texas

## Youth Group Doings

Plans are in place for the November 10<sup>th</sup> Youth Group gathering at St. Ann's (2-4 pm). We will be working to support Operation Christmas Child, a project under the direction of an organization called Samaritan's Purse in which shoeboxes are packed with various items and sent to underprivileged children around the world. We are planning a shoebox packing party on November 10<sup>th</sup> to put together shoeboxes to be delivered to needy children. During the youth group gathering we will listen to Christmas music, enjoy eating some Christmas cookies and pack our Operation Christmas Child boxes. Each family can decide if they would like each child to pack a box or if you would like to pack one box as a family. We do ask that everyone please bring empty shoeboxes for their family to pack. St. Ann's will be collecting personal hygiene/personal care items. Samaritan's Purse asks for a \$7 donation per shoe box. If you would be willing to donate that amount for the shoe boxes you fill as a family, it would be appreciated. However, St. Ann's vestry has funds available to assist if needed. Let's support our young people in this worthy project!

## Treasurer's Notes (as submitted to St. Ann's Annual Meeting)

St. Ann's ended 2012 with an overall positive cash flow of about \$2,940.55 based on all income versus 2012 expenses and outreach. Our 2012 outreach apart from diocesan payments totaled \$3,845.10, about \$1445 over what was planned. Pledge income and loose plate offerings were slightly over what was expected and investment income was slightly below expected. We received Chenango District Mission Grant money totaling \$4,160.83. We appreciate the generosity of all who give to support St. Ann's as we strive to discern and carry out what God would have us do in our community and the world.

Our capital improvements for 2012 were to add insulation to the parish hall ceiling and to ventilate the area above the parish hall ceiling. These improvements cost \$3450 but we should get some payback in fuel oil savings. We also had the parish hall lights replaced with more energy efficient units at a cost to us of \$421.62. The remaining 70% was paid by NYSEG. Again we should get some payback in energy savings. We also replaced our copy machine with a refurbished unit that is faster and has duplex capability. Thanks to Woody Robins for bringing a vendor to our attention. Our cost was \$385 and it is working out well. No capital improvement activity has been planned for 2013.

To date in 2013, our outreach amounts to \$1,870. Your Vestry considers monthly how much and where best to spend our outreach dollars. This is the first item on the agenda for each Vestry meeting to remind us of its importance. If you have any suggestions, please let one of your wardens or vestry-people know. Once again, we have been blessed with a reasonably good financial condition. It seems only fitting that we should share our blessings with others less fortunate. With one quarter of 2013 remaining, our year-to-date income is approximately \$5,686 over our expenditures, a trend that I hope will continue.

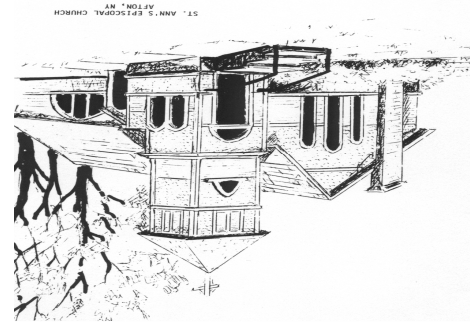
God continues to provide us with blessings. We continue to be blessed to have Fr. David Hanselman serving us on a shared basis with Zion, Greene and St. Paul's, Oxford. Since Fr. Dave cannot serve in three places at the same time, St. Ann's has lay-led Morning Prayer services approximately every other Sunday. It has been gratifying to see several of St. Ann's parishioners step up to the challenge of leading Morning Prayer. As a result our expenditure for clergy support has been reduced. Not having an organist has also reduced our outlay and we appreciate that the congregation tolerates Synthia's occasional foibles.

St. Ann's continues to face increases in costs just as we do in our personal lives. As I've pointed out in previous years' reports, most of our expenses are "non-discretionary." That is, we cannot reduce them, at least not significantly. These are things like insurance, diocesan and personnel expenses, electricity, heat, water and telephone. We're all aware of the continuing significant rise in the cost of energy. We continue to look for opportunities to reduce our energy consumption, the most effective being to simply lower the thermostat. We appreciate everyone's cooperating by adding layers of clothing. At year's end, most budget line items should be near or possibly under the amounts budgeted and I'm hopeful that we'll end the year on a positive note.

The proposed budget for 2014 expenses is the same as that for 2013. We have a better idea of our share of the cost of Fr. David's services. Supply clergy expenses should be considerably reduced as many of our parishioners are stepping up to the task of leading Morning Prayer services. It's also assumed that we'll continue without an organist. Hopefully pledge and loose plate income will continue at current levels. The budget also reflects a more realistic (I hope) projection of investment income that has improved since the diocese converted to a new investment firm. Given continued support from our parish family, we should be able to meet our expenses. We will need to continue to remain vigilant in our spending and generous in our support. St. Ann's survival depends upon each of us being doers of The Word and not hearers only! I have faith that, if we seek to do what God would have us do in our community, He will provide St. Ann's the means to do it. Note that a complete treasurer's report is posted monthly on the parish hall bulletin board.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Peter C. Vail, Treasurer



Address label here

Worship service: Sunday 9:15 am

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

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



**(Then Jesus said:) ... Do to others as you would have them do to you."**

**Luke 6: 31**

Most of us recognize this command from Jesus as The Golden Rule. Chances are it is as familiar to us as is The Lord's Prayer. Some say that this "rule" serves as a perfect summary of the kind of righteousness the kingdom of heaven expects in respect to our relation to others. Others say that Jesus was simply repeating what had already been taught by others. For example, Hinduism teaches: This is the sum of duty: do naught to others which if done to thee would cause thee pain. Buddhism teaches: Hurt not others with that which pains yourself. Jewish traditions teach: What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow men. That is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary. The Muslim religion teaches: No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.

At first these all sound like many different ways of expressing the same concept. But a closer look reveals that Jesus' "rule" is positive whereas most other expressions of the rule are not. That is, Jesus says "Do unto others what you want them to do to you." The others say "Don't do to others what you don't want done to you." With the others, all that is required is that you don't harm other people. With Jesus, what is required is that you show kindness to others. In a sense, this takes relationships to a higher level, what might be called a proactive approach.

The Golden Rule, then, prescribes righteous conduct towards others that is in perfect harmony with the Law and the Prophets. It is always available for us to use as a guide for proper conduct and, if used, it is unlikely that we'll ever go wrong. May God grant us the grace to always do to others as we would have them do to us.

PCV