

## Sharing God's Love in Our Community Through Prayer, Study and Action

**St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY**  
(Member of the Chenango District)

### The Parish News

[www.stannsaftonny.org](http://www.stannsaftonny.org)

The Newsletter of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Afton, NY

**Clergy: The Reverend Fr. David A. Hanselman Cell: 761-4601 Office: 656-9502**

If you desire Father David to visit you or give you a call, please contact him at one of the numbers above.

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

**Wardens: Betty Vail: 639-1201 Tracey Tallmadge: 343-1301**



### *From Fr. Dave*

Welcome September!

Last month I began introducing the book (and vision) that our diocese will be focusing on at Annual Convention and working through in the months and years to come - Dwight Zscheile's *The Agile Church*.

First and foremost, it seems to me at least, the message of the book is - Listen! Listen for the spiritual longing of our neighbors. Listen for the spiritual longing within yourself. Listen for the hunger and need that only Jesus Christ can fulfill. Now, this is not a foolproof method of increasing membership, but it is a dependable way of insuring that we are being faithful Christians.

A particularly difficult message within the book is to not worry too much about failure. Trying different things and failing is **not** seen as such a very bad thing. That is, if it's done well.

Mr Zscheile uses the example of Silicon Valley throughout his book and calls upon work done by Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky distinguishing between technical problems and adaptive challenges (p. 60). Technical problems have solutions that simply need to be applied. Adaptive challenges, on the other hand, is what Silicon Valley - and the church! - are faced with. Appropriately engaging the community we find ourselves in; especially as that community undergoes changes - that is the basis of the adaptive challenges we are faced with.

Adaptive challenges inevitably result in many more failed experiments than successful breakthroughs. One key, however, is to make sure all our resources (and hopes) aren't placed in one grand experiment. Rather, it's a matter of many small experiments (and failures) and the reflections and adjustments that occur going forward into new experiments.

For this month, let me leave you with one (of many possible) excellent comments from *The Agile Church*: "The church has been given the gift of the greatest vision in human history - the kingdom or reign of God as announced and embodied in Jesus. That is our guiding vision, and it must be articulated and interpreted constantly in the church's life." We are called to be a part of God's work in this world. Amen.

## 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!

Service Schedule						
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Sept 3	HC	<b>C.Tarvin</b>	J.Rettberg	BV	JR	B.Vail
Sept 10	MP	<b>C.Cimini</b>	C.Tarvin	AC	----	A.Cimini
Sept 17	HC	<b>P.Tucker</b>	D.Vail	DV	BV	B.Vail/A.Vail
Sept 24	MP	<b>B.Vail</b>	R.Felldin	RF	----	B.Vail
Oct 1	HC	<b>A.Wieber</b>	C.Tarvin	JR	DW	D.Wieber/B.Vail
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Sept 10	R.Felldin	Sept 10	T.Vail/D.Vail	Sept 11	Pat & Al Tucker	
Sept 17	T.Vail			Sept 13	R.Felldin & J.Seacat	
Sept 24	K.Vail	Sept 24	R.Felldin/B.Vail			
Lectionary (Year A)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalms	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Sept 3		<b>Exodus 3:1-15</b>	Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	<b>Romans 12:9-21</b>	Matthew 16:21-28	
Sept 10		<b>Exodus 12:1-14</b>	Psalms 149	<b>Romans 13:8-14</b>	Matthew 18:15-20	
Sept 17		<b>Exodus 14:19-31</b>	Psalms 114	<b>Romans 14:1-12</b>	Matthew 18:21-35	
Sept 24		<b>Exodus 16:2-15</b>	Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45	<b>Philippians 1:21-30</b>	Matthew 20:1-16	
Oct 1		<b>Exodus 17:1-7</b>	Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16	<b>Philippians 2:1-13</b>	Matthew 21:23-32	

**Altar Duty** for the month of September is Pat Tucker 639-1984. If you are giving flowers in memory a loved one, please notify Peter Vail 607-639-1444 no later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that he can include a notice in the bulletin.



The Annual Church meeting will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup>, beginning at service time and continuing during coffee hour.

**CHURCH SCHOOL WILL BEGIN SEPTEMBER 10TH. ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

You have heard of Friday, Saturday and Sunday...but what about S'mores-day?? We are planning to have our first annual S'mores day for our children on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour. Be sure to have your kids attend that day and maybe even bring some friends! The children (with adult supervision) will be able to toast marshmallows on a campfire outside and make their own s'mores as a special treat. We can't wait for S'more fun!! Thank you to Mr. Kane for the great idea and for supplying the ingredients!



*Kids - ready for a little gardening fun and digging in the dirt? We need your helping hands after church on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> to spruce up the area on the bottom of the hill below the playground.*

*Be sure to bring some old clothes and gardening gloves if you have them.*

*There might even be a pizza party after all of your hard work!*



### St. Ann's Prayer List for September 2017

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. Please note: Long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names for two months unless updated.

#### Long Term

Carol  
Peter  
Joyce  
Mya  
Holly  
Cindy  
Lois  
Clifford  
Richard  
Bill  
Elliott  
Kevin  
Connie  
Eli

Fr. David Hanselman  
Fr. Steven White  
Fr. Bruce MacDuffie  
Deacon Kay  
Pastor Becky  
Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe  
Bishop Michael Curry  
The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph  
Emmanuel Church  
Epiphany Church  
Zion Church  
St. Paul's Church  
St. Andrew's Church  
St. Matthew's Church  
St. Peter's Church

#### Short Term

Pastor Sue      Patrick Duane  
Marsey          Evelyn  
Marion          Hailey  
Dakota          Dianne

Wayne

The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School. The Rector search for Emanuel, St. Andrew's & St. Matthew's churches. The following prayer 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, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.*



**NO MEETING HELD IN AUGUST**

**WILL RESUME SEPTEMBER 17, 2017**



*September Celebrations*



- 9/13 Toni Weller
- 9/15 Father Ralph
- 9/16 Cindy Johnson
- 9/19 Calvin Tallmadge
- 9/26 Denise Wieber



- 9/22 Milton & Marisa Harding
- 9/30 Tom & Betty Vail

# Baptism

On August 20th. St. Ann's welcomed Maxwell Royston Harding as the newest member of Christ's flock at St. Ann's. Maxwell is the son of Milton and Marissa Harding.

“Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism you have provided the way for us to become part of the humanity you perfected by becoming incarnate. Help us to rejoice in the new life we have in you. Help us to nourish that life and keep it strong; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN”

## WHY CHURCH?

The Rev. David Meginniss

Why do we have church? Is it for God's sake? Clearly, the answer is "no." When King David first wanted to build a temple, God reminded him that God never asked for a "house"; God does not need any earthly dwelling. And when Solomon finally built the temple, in his wisdom he acknowledged to God, "The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!"

Solomon knew it is not for God's sake, but for humans' sake that we build places of worship. Solomon prayed that God would bless the temple to serve as a place where God's people could pray, ask for help, guidance, or forgiveness, and where they could celebrate their relationship to God. The problem is, most people were not as wise as Solomon. Although they didn't want to admit it, they lived as if they believed God was contained within the temple, and never left it. If they needed God's help, they would come "visit God" at the temple, but the rest of the time they went around as if God couldn't see what they were doing. They liked to point at the temple and say how beautiful it was and how important they were to have God's presence in their midst, but it didn't really affect their day to day lives. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God told the people of Israel that if they didn't shape up, God might just quit listening to their prayers altogether.

These days, we're not limited to a single Temple. We've got churches all over the place. They come in all kinds of flavors, like ice cream. They use different worship styles, different versions of the Bible, different customs, and different forms of church government. But what was true about the temple is true for all of these churches.

First, none exist for God's sake. God is not contained in any of them. We need them because we have trouble focusing. God is all around us and in us and through us, and yet we need sacred spaces where we can help our restless bodies and souls be still in God's presence. We also need a meeting place where we can come together as God's people. No Christian should try to be a Christian in isolation. Jesus gave us the gift of the Church to be his very Body. The building is not the Church, but the building gives the Church a place to meet. Second, the church building does us absolutely no good if we're not in it. I suspect a lot of folks are proud to have such a beautiful place to call their church home, and that's good, but I also suspect there are some who are proud to say they belong to a particular church because they think it makes them important. That's not so good. Our church building is only meaningful, it is only important, it only has a reason to exist if it strengthens our relationship to God. It needs to affect our lives by giving us the strength, the resources, the energy, the enthusiasm, and the mutual support to go out and serve God in the world. We need to come to church to help us remember that God is with us wherever we are, whatever we're doing. We need to deepen our understanding about God and give each other mutual support and encouragement. We need to meet as a Church, so we can be the Church.

God gave us the Church for our sakes. The least we can do is be grateful enough to use it!



The following are from *The JoyfulNoiseletter* with permission

## Signs and wonders

**S**ign outside St. Mary Catholic Church, Hampton, IL:  
 "Our Lifeguard walks on water."  
 —via Joseph Brozovich  
 East Moline, IL

Sign outside So. Seminole Church of Christ, Winter Park, FL:  
 "Don't follow the stars, Listen to the One who made them."  
 —via Bobbe Lyon  
 Maitland, FL

Sign in a church parking lot:  
 "Preacher parking only. You park, you preach."  
 —via Rev. Dale A. Schoening  
 Woodward, IA

Sign outside Lititz (PA) Moravian Congregation:  
 "Happy hours every Sunday."  
 —via Rev. Dean R. Jurgen

Sign outside South Side Church of God, South Bend, IN:  
 "Education will never become as expensive as ignorance."  
 —via Marvin D. Hills  
 South Bend, IN

Sign outside So. Seminole Church of Christ, Winter Park, FL:  
 "Are you a 7<sup>th</sup> Day Absentist?"  
 —via Bobbe Lyon  
 Maitland, FL



## Smile

Card passed out by JN Subscriber Virgil K. Hawn, Shelbyville, IN:

*A smile is something nice to see  
 It doesn't cost a cent.  
 A smile is something all your own.  
 It never can be spent.  
 A smile is welcome anywhere  
 It does away with frowns.  
 A smile is good for everyone  
 To ease life's ups and downs.*

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bill and Jeff Keane



"Guardian Angels watch over us so God can work on more important stuff."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*  
 Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane

**The Final Word**

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ... (The commandments) are summed up in this word, "love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. From Romans 13:8, 9b – 10

Here, in the Second Lesson for 12 Pentecost, is more of St. Paul's guidance for hristian living that we can apply to our own lives without interpretation or translation. Once again, it can be helpful to hear Paul's words translated into contemporary (today's) language. Following is the whole passage from Romans as translated by Eugene H. Peterson in *The MESSAGE*

"Don't run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other. When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along. The law code — don't sleep with another person's spouse, don't take someone's life, don't take what isn't yours, don't always be wanting what you don't have, and any other "don't" you can think of — finally adds up to this: Love other people as well as you do yourself."

You can't go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is love. But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day by - day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the alvation work he began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!" Does this speak to you? Try reading it several times and then listen for what God may be saying to you. You may be surprised! PCV

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

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

**Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman**

**Wardens:** Betty Vail  
 Tracey Tallmadge

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

