

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

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

Clergy: The Reverend Fr. David A. Hanselman Cell: 607-761-4601 Office: 607-656-9502

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 cannot be reached, please contact one of the wardens.

Wardens: Dan Vail: 607-240-9264 Tracey Tallmadge: 607-343-1301



April. Easter is coming! What a day! A day so important that every Sunday is a celebration of that one day. I'm not sure many of us think about that. **Every** Sunday is a feast day simply because every Sunday is a commemoration of that first Easter Sunday; the first Sunday of a renewed creation - the Sunday Jesus Christ walked out of the tomb. Those three dark days beforehand when the followers of the Way thought all had come to an end, it was on Easter day when the darkness came to an end and a new light - new possibilities - shone in the world.

That's why the first Christians referred to it as "the 8th day" - because it was God's action of a brand-new first day of creation; the day of re-creation. The day when humanity was conclusively shown the true will of God - God's purest goal for creation is life.

I propose a thought experiment: consider what will God's kingdom on earth look like. Examples are easily found in Jesus' ministry and parables.

God's kingdom alive and well on earth would be like a father running to welcome home his wayward son. It would be like multitudes of sick being healed. It would be the outcast invited back into community. It would be the hungry being fed, the naked being clothed, the blind given sight. But it would also be like the rich, powerful and vain being humbled while the meek and mild are made powerful. It is both frightening and exciting - the first will be last, the last will be first.

There's a good reason Scripture adopted the metaphor of labor pains to describe this renewal of creation. Giving birth can be a frightening, painful, messy time. With human birth, sometimes there is no joy but only more heartache when a delivery doesn't go well. With the rebirth of creation, when it does happen, there can be only joy. There can be only joy when "God wipes away every tear" and we see a new heaven and a new earth. Amen and Alleluia!

APRIL SERVICE SCHEDULE \ SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

If you are not currently receiving email Zoom invites, then please send your email address and you will be added to the parish listing. Bottom415@aol.com, Yes, the “zoom” service is different, but change is what life is all about.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Acolytes	
Apr 2	HC	J. Rettberg	J. Rettberg	B. Vail	
Apr 9	HC	T. Vail	T. Vail	B. Vail/Tracey Tallmadge	
Apr 16	HC	A. Sabanos	A. Sabanos	B. Vail	
Apr 23	MP	C. Tarvin	C. Tarvin	B. Vail	
Apr 30	MP	A. Wieber	A. Wieber	B. Vail	
May 7	HC	A. Sabanos	A. Sabanos	B. Vail	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Apr 2	HC	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14- 27:66
Apr 9	HC	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-18
Apr 16	HC	Acts 2:14a,22-32	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
Apr 23	MP	Acts 2:14a,36-41	Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
Apr 30	MP	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
May 7	HC	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:

April 16 – B Vail/D. Vail

April 23 – C. Cimini/T. Tallmadge

April 30 – D. Wieber/A. Wieber



Altar Duty for the month of April is Betty Vail 607-639-1201. If you desire flowers on the Altar on a given Sunday, please contact Betty a week in advance. The Easter Lily's on the Altar Easter Sunday are in memory of all our loved ones.

St. Ann's Prayer List for April 2023

It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. 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. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. We would like to be sure that this prayer list is updated as changes occur and don't want to remove someone that should be on it. Please send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 607-639-1201. Please note that long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names will typically be left on the listing for 3 or 4 months or perhaps longer.

Short Term		Long Term			
Dorothy	Ralph	Carol	Peter	Fr. David Hanselman	St. Paul's Church
Fran	Chris	Joyce	Judy	Fr. Steven White	St. Andrews's Church
Dianne	David	Mya Holly	Bob	Pastor Becky	St. Ann's Church
Anne	Peter			Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Peter's Church
Gina		Bonnie Hailey		The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	Zion Church St. Matthew's Church
		Bobbi		Bishop Michael Curry	Message Ministries
		Jason Cindy		The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph	The General Theological Seminary
		David Terra		Emanuel Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
		Doc Arthur		Epiphany Church	

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins –
Carol Vail, Joyce Whitney, Grace Affuso, and Bonnie
MacPherson



The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School. The Learning Communities Initiative of the Diocese. 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.*

April 2nd Palm Sunday



St. Ann's church services for Holy Week are as follows:



Maundy Thursday – 7:00p.m.

Good Friday – 7:00p.m.

Sunrise Service – Hope Church – 7:00a.m.

Easter Sunday – 9:15a.m.





Mark your calendar for St. Ann's Community Outreach

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023

12:30 – 2:00

SOUP, SANDWICH & FRIENDSHIP

ALL ARE WELCOME.

HOMEMADE BY AMY

THE HOST & PROPRIETOR OF FLAMING BAG CATERING

Birthdays

4/9 Jane Seacat

4/25 Maxwell Harding

Kerri Vail



Anniversaries

4/23 Mado & Carol Cimini

Denise & Amy Weiber

Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary

cttallmadg@aol.com or 607-343-1301



CHURCH TERMS: - EASTER – The “Queen of the Festivals” of the church Year commemorates the resurrection of our Lord. Its date is variable, and all other movable feasts are dependent upon it. Easter occurs the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. March 21.



Vestry Hi-lights for March

March 19, 2023

1. Outreach was sent to the John Snel family for house reconstruction after a fire.
2. Next “free lunch” event will be April 21st. from 12:30 PM to approximately 2:00.
3. Delegates for convention will be Tracey Tallmadge and Denise Wieber.
4. St. Ann’s will be hosting the Afton Central School baccalaureate service on June 22nd.
5. Financial report shows that we are holding our own financially.

Maintaining Perspective

It’s important to look at things from God’s point of view.

1 Corinthians 4:6 MSG

If a temporary loss of perspective has left you worried, exhausted, or both, it’s time to readjust your thought patterns. Negative thoughts are habit forming; thankfully so are positive ones. With practice you can form the habit of focusing on God’s priorities and your own possibilities. When you do, you’ll soon discover that you spend less time fretting about your challenges and more time solving them.

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross observed, “It’s only when we truly know and understand that we have a limited time on earth—and that we have no way of knowing when our time is up—that we will begin to live each day to the fullest, as if it were the only one we had.”

That’s perspective. And that’s life. May you have heaping helpings of both.

The proper perspective creates within us a spirit of reaching outside of ourselves with joy and enthusiasm.

Luci Swindoll

Difficult Times

We live in difficult and precarious times. We know that most congregations are uncertain about their future. Some worry about surviving. Others wonder what they will need to be like to minister in the future. Nearly all are attempting to discover what it means to be church in this time of radical and rapid change and if they really can be that.

We live in a liminal time (an in between or transitional time) ---a time betwixt and between. Virtually all the old answers about what it means to be and do church don't work anymore. These were not bad answers or the wrong way of doing things. congregational leaders who used them to shape their ministry were not stupid or faithless. Rather, the world in which those answers were valid doesn't exist anymore. The challenge we face is that there are yet no new answers---notions perhaps but not answer. This is a frustrating and difficult situation to cope with and is one of the primary reasons most traditional churches are getting smaller.

We have become more and more aware of the radical nature of the times in which we live. We have heard a great deal about the decline of Christendom, the rise of postmodernity, and the impact of new technologies. All of these contribute to the emergence of a world that doesn't look at all like the one that existed just a few years ago. This new and ever-changing world demands change on our part, but the exact nature of the change that is needed isn't clear. We hear more and more church leaders talk with sadness and often frustration about the struggles they are facing as they attempt to adjust to this new world. They have heard all the stories about turnaround churches that their denominational leaders tell. They have attended the workshops offered by turnaround pastors who told stories of the great success they had. But none of these proved helpful. What worked in other churches didn't seem to make any difference in their church. No matter how excited they were about the potential they began to see, it seemed impossible to excite or even interest others. Often instead of helping, all the reading they did and workshops they attended added to their frustration, reinforcing a nagging fear that perhaps they didn't know enough, try enough, care enough; that they were failures. None of it was speaking to what perhaps had started out as a vague and amorphous notion about their church and was gradually turning into a gnawing concern.

Somehow, deep down inside they had a sense that no matter what they did the chances of the congregation they served surviving another ten or perhaps twenty years was not great. And they began to sense this notion wasn't just a fatalistic pessimism brought on by their frustration, but an appropriate and reasonable insight.

Other leaders, in what would by just about any standard be considered thriving congregations, were beginning to sense that what they were doing was not sustainable—at least not over a long period of time. It might bring increased attendance and balanced budgets for a while, perhaps even a decade or two, but unless something more radical happened in the life and ministry of the congregation this would not continue. Again, this nagging concern wasn't fatalism, but a deep wondering about their leadership and their church based in an awareness that something was amiss in what they were about, that the ways they had been doing church, even though they were producing good results at present, would not be able to maintain the congregation in the manner to which it had become accustomed. These were the realities that sneaked up on me and led to a decision to write a different kind of book about how congregations can faithfully and effectively face and respond to all the newness that today's world presents to them.

None of us knows what the future will be like. The world is changing so radically and rapidly that any attempt to tailor our ministry to assumptions we make about the future is foolhardy. What we can know, at least partly, is what the present is like. If our ministry responds to the realities of the present, it will be a significant improvement over continuing to respond to the realities of the past, which is what many congregations are doing. It may be that some of what we do will be part of the future. It is just as likely, however, that we will discover that some of it does not make sense for the future of the church and will be among those things we leave behind. In either case, we will be participating in the challenging work of moving ourselves and the church into a yet unknown future, a future that God has in store for, the church, and all creation. The decline congregations are experiencing is, often, a symptom of the radically different world in which we now find ourselves. While declining membership seems to make the challenge, we face even greater because it reduces the resources that are available, it in fact offers an opportunity for seeing the world as it is and responding in new ways. Viewed in this way, the hopeful reality is that God is calling us to a new future. The challenge for us is to recognize what we are being called to do.

Some comments by Pastor Jeffrey D. Jones in his book: Facing decline, Finding HOPE



The Final Word

Witnessing: 1 Peter 2:12 – *“Be careful how you live among your unbelieving neighbors. Even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will believe and give honor to God when he comes to judge the world.”*

A high school teacher chooses soft drink at a party where alcohol is being served. A businessman refrains from the profanity used by his associates, even when the deal falls through. A mother offers to watch a neighbor's children or makes a meal for the neighbor when she knows another mom has been under the weather. A simple act of everyday goodness, morality or kindness can be more eloquent than a thousand words. When you sense skepticism or hardness toward the gospel, remember that the most powerful testimony is often delivered not in words but by a life lived in imitation of Christ.

NLT – GEZ

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

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AND ACTION

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

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