

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: Currently Supply Priests

If you desire a visit from a priest or give you a call, please contact one of the wardens below.

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



FAITH THAT WORKS

Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked; but the righteous will live by their faith.
Habakkuk 2:4 NLT

Through every stage of your life, God stands by your side, ready to strengthen you and protect you—if you have faith in Him. When you place your faith, your trust, indeed your life in His hands, you'll be amazed at the marvelous things God can do with you and through you.

So, make this promise to yourself and keep it: make certain your faith is a faith that works. How? You can strengthen your faith through praise, through worship, and through prayer. When you do these things, you'll learn to trust God's plans. With Him all things are possible, and He stands ready to open a world of possibilities to you. All you must do is let Him.

Faith does not concern itself with the entire journey. One step is enough.

Mrs. Charles E. Cowman

Prayer for the selection of a Rector



Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on your church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECEMBER 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 | |
| Dec 3 | HC | A. Cimini | A. Cimini | B. Vail | |
| Dec 10 | MP | B. Vail | B. Vail | D. Vail | |
| Dec 17 | HC | T. Tallmadge | T. Tallmadge | B. Vail | |
| Dec 24 4:30 | HC | Various readers | Various readers | B. Vail | |
| Dec 31 | HC | C. Cimini | C. Cimini | B. Vail | |
| Jan-Feb | ZOOM | | | | |
| READINGS BELOW | | | | | |
| | | Old Testament | Psalm | New Testament | Gospel |
| Dec 3 | HC | Isaiah 64:1-9 | Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 | Mark 13:24-37 |
| Dec 10 | MP | Isaiah 40:1-11 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 | 2 Peter 3:8-15a | Mark 1:1-8 |
| Dec 17 | HC | Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 | Psalm 126 | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 | John 1:6-8, 19-28 |
| Dec 24 4:30 | MP | | | | |
| Dec 31 | HC | Isaiah 61:10-62:3 | Psalm 147 or 147:13-21 | Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 | John 1:1-18 |
| Jan-Feb | ZOOM | Genesis 1:1-5 | Psalm 29 | Acts 19:1-7 | Mark 1:4-11 |
| If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading. | | | | | |

MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:

Dec. 10 - Carol Cimini

Dec. 31 - Betty Vail



-ALTAR Duty for the month of December is Tracey Tallmadge 607-343-1301 and Betty Vail 607-639-1201. If you desire flowers on the Altar on a given Sunday, please contact Betty at 607-639-1201 a week in advance.

St. Ann's Prayer List for *December 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 | Anne | Carol | Cindy | Fr. David Hanselman | St. Paul's Church |
| MaryAnn | Judy | Mya | David | Fr. Steven White | St. Andrews's Church |
| Bill | | Holly | Terra | Pastor Becky | St. Ann's Church |
| Cheryl | | Bonnie | Arthur | Fr. Geoff Doolittle | St. Peter's Church |
| | | Bobbi | Jason | The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe | Zion Church St. Matthew's Church |
| | | Bishop Michael Curry | | Kim | Message Ministries |
| | | | | The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph | The General Theological Seminary |
| | | | | Emanuel Church | The Episcopal Divinity School |
| | | | | Epiphany Church | James |

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins –
Carol Vail 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.*





December coffee hour hosts

December 3 - Judy Rettberg
 December 10 - Dan Vail
 December 17 - Tracey Tallmadge
 December 24 - No coffee hour - Christmas Eve service
 December 31 - Betty Vail



CHURCH TERMS AND SYMBOLS – TRIANGLE –Only an equilateral triangle is used in ecclesiastical art because it represents the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit being equal, yet one. Usually a line drawing, the triangle may also be made of three fish, one forming each side. The Shield of the Holy Trinity is based on an inverted triangle with a small circle at each point and a larger circle in the center, joined to the small ones by double lines. The center circle is labeled "God," the others: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The lines of the triangle each say, "is not" and the bands to the center circle say "is." The Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father, but each is God.



Vestry information for November

1. Split outreach 50/50 between Afton Community Chest and an unwed mother startup through The Chenango County Advocacy.
2. Discussed status of Rector search.
3. Report on stewardship "intention" cards. If you plan to submit a card, it is not too late.
4. UTO for fall ingathering is \$300.
5. Bible study is expected to resume shortly. Carol will connect with Zion, Greene.
6. Discussed going to "zoom" services for January and February. Approved with regular "in church" services to resume in March. Also discussed using "Face Book" resources for services.
7. Cash Christmas gifts approved for Mother Liz, groundskeeper, and sexton.
8. Christmas Eve offering to go to the General Theological Seminary.

"The Answer of Christmas"

The Most Rev. Michael Ramsey

It is because we believe that God has an answer to man's predicament, the answer of the Word-made-flesh at Bethlehem, that we have hope, and, having hope, are rejoicing once again at Christmas.

Christians for whom this hope is a reality have been able to rejoice even when they have been in the world's darkest places. It was in prison in Rome, with the prospect of death awaiting him, that St. Paul wrote, "Rejoice, and again I say, rejoice...in nothing be anxious, the Lord is at hand."

The proof of our Christian hope is the existence of men and women who have lived by it and have radiated its joy even in dark and heartbreaking circumstances. Each of us will have known such men and women, and it is in them that Christmas is seen to be alive.

The Child born on Christmas day is set for the rising and falling of many, and when the sword of Bethlehem pierces our own souls, may it find us on the side of those who know the costly secret of Christmas joy. Merry Christmas!!

"The Other Wise Man"

Caroline Pyle

We all know the story of the Three Wise Men, but we may not know the wonderful story told by Henry VanDyke, of the Other Wise Man. He too saw the star rising in the East and set out with wondrous gifts to offer the King whose birth had long been foretold. This one did not reach the young Child along with his brethren because he stopped along the way to help a sick, elderly man by the side of the road. This Other Wise Man did not find the Holy Family in Egypt, where they had fled. Instead, he saved one innocent child in Bethlehem from Herod's massacre.

The great desire of this Other Wise Man was denied, and yet in a strange way he found the One whom he sought. He knew that the Child he sought would not be found in a palace or among the rich and powerful, but feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, healing the sick, comforting the captive, and reaching out to the lost. For the light which he sought was a new light that rose out of patient and triumphant suffering.

As the years went by, he searched and used his gifts of healing and gave of his great wealth to the poor and the lowly and the oppressed. Finally, in his last act of giving when his last hope of finding the King was gone, the Other Wise Man found peace. He had done the best he could do from day to day. He had been faithful and, in the last act of love, found the King. In his searching and in his giving, the Other Wise Man of VanDyke's beautiful story became like the King he sought – offering himself in love and revealing Christ to the hungry, the naked, the sick, the captive, and the lost.

If we seek to find Christ, we too would do well to look for Him there. And the King will answer, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Merry Christmas!!

Birthdays

12/01 Lexi Cutmore
12/08 Woody Robbins
12/16 Sandy Proffitt
12/18 Abigail Burch
12/20 Dan Vail



Anniversaries

12/5 Dave & Nancy Setford

Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary cttallmadg@aol.com or 607-343-1301

Friendly Reminders

On December 3rd we enter the season of Advent, and the Eucharistic Lectionary is Year B.

On December 24th, there will be no 9:15 Morning Prayer service, but in the evening, there will be a Christmas Eve Candlelight service with Lessons and Carols at 4:30 p.m. Father Geoff Doolittle will be conducting the Holy Eucharist. Everyone is welcome and St. Ann's wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Due to an older congregation and the high cost of fuel, St. Ann's will begin online Zoom services January 7th at 9:15a.m. It is hoped you will join everyone from your homes for these weekly Sunday services. We will return to in person services on March 3, 2024.

Father God, we thank You and praise You today for the miracle of Your Son's birth. Thank You for bringing great JOY to the whole world! Thank You for giving us the assurance that because You came to us in the form of a human, we who believe in Jesus can know with absolute certainty that we'll spend eternity with You.

We thank You, Lord, for the many reasons we have been given a Merry [Christmas](#). And we rejoice for each blessing. New life. New love. A home. A job. New opportunities. Second chances. And more.

We know, Lord, that You bring the sun and the moon and set the stars in motion. You tell the ocean where to stop and the snow when to start. And we thank You for the mighty gift of Your creation.

Thank You, Father, for spiritual leaders and [faith](#)-filled friends who keep encouraging us when we are close to giving up.

**Christmas
Is
Tomorrow**

Christmas isn't gone. Christmas is tomorrow, the day after tomorrow and all the days after that you can count—if you make it that way.

For every day there are scores and hundreds and thousands of people who need the special something that makes Christmas what it is.

You may never get to know these people. Or you may meet them turning a corner. Or you may read about them in a newspaper, or you may discover that they work right in your office or even live with you in your home.

Everyone wants a little something of Christmas every day.

Not a present, not a box of cigars or a bottle of perfume, not a doll or mechanical toy.

They want and they need something that each of us individually can give-and feel the better for giving.

Something of ourselves. Kindness. Understanding. Patience. Tolerance. Good will. Faith.

You could probably coin a thousand names for it—including love—and never really name it.

You know, though, when you've given it. For you feel better inside—knowing you've made someone else feel better inside.

It's a warm feeling. It's a wonderful feeling. It's a feeling of Christmas.

Yes, Christmas is a good name for it. And every day in the year is a good time for seeing to it that you feel it—by making someone else feel it.

And you can. For Christmas was never yesterday. It's always tomorrow.

Anonymous

The Final Word



Abilities - Psalm 147:10 – *“the strength of a horse does not impress him how puny in his sight is the strength of a man.”*

We may long to have the abilities and talents of others, but would we be properly equipped to use them? We may not want to pay the price another has paid to become an accomplished musician, a wealthy businessman, a highly skilled athlete, or a great writer. Nor may we want to carry the burden of continuing to use those talents faithfully. We really don't know why God hands out talents and abilities the way he does. But the Bible makes it clear that what God has given to each of us, if used faithfully, we'll accomplish great things. God often takes joy in using those the world thinks are lacking inability or talent to accomplish his plans.

NLT-GEZ

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

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 COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY
 AND ACTION

Clergy: Currently Supply Priests

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

