

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



Greetings! I've decided to share a different sort of message with you all this month. Since I've spoken to a couple people who have direct experience with this and an article appeared around it in the May edition of AARP Bulletin, I want to do my best at raising awareness about a particularly frightening and amazing scam that's happening – Artificial

Intelligence enabled scams.

It's now possible for scammers to take short audio clips from online posts such as videos on Facebook and duplicate that voice. This scam is oftentimes aimed at grandparents.

Typically, you'll get a call, and the voice can sound amazingly like your grandchild's. They'll say there's some big emergency (such as an accident or an arrest) and they need money quickly.

The AARP article shares these tips. First and foremost, slow things down. There will be a lot of pressure to move quickly, to send money quickly, but slow things down. Tell them that you will call them back, then find a trusted number and investigate it. According to experts, no legitimate organization demands money within hours. Secondly, resist the pressure. It's really upsetting to think a child or grandchild has been in an accident or arrested but stay calm and find some reliable source to double-check with. Thirdly, listen for red flags especially if the caller says it needs to be kept secret.

While technology may help us do so many things we never imagined (like, I never imagined I could make a video call to someone around the world for virtually free!), it has also enabled criminals to be even more devious in committing crimes. Indeed, the AARP article cites experts that say it's quickly becoming possible for criminals to duplicate a loved one's face so it will seem as though you're looking at and talking to a loved one when in fact it will be a complete scam. AARP has lotted more information about fraud schemes on their website: aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

Please be safe and help others be safe by spreading the message. Blessing upon blessing to you all!

JUNE 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	
June 4	HC	C. Cimini	C. Cimini	B. Vail	
June 11	MP	A. Wieber	A. Wieber	B. Vail	
June 18	HC	P. Tucker	P. Tucker	Church Picnic at Kellystone Park	
June 25	MP	C. Tarvin	C. Tarvin	B. Vail	
July 2	HC	B. Vail	B. Vail	B. Vail	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
June 4	HC	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalm 8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
June 11	MP	Genesis 12:1-9	Psalm 33:1-12	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
June 18	HC	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)	Psalm 116:1, 10-17	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)
June 25	MP	Genesis 21:8-21	Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
July 2	HC	Genesis 22:1-14	Psalm 13	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:

June 11 – D. Wieber

June 25 – B. Vail



Altar Duty for the month of June is Betty Vail 607-639-1201. If you desire flowers on the Altar on a given Sunday, please contact Betty Vail at 607-639-1201 a week in advance.

St. Ann's Prayer List for *June 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	Bob	Pastor Becky	St. Ann's Church
Anne	Peter	Holly	Hailey	Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Peter's Church
Gina		Bonnie	Cindy	The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	Zion Church St. Matthew's Church
Harrison	Sophia	Bobbi	Terra	Bishop Michael Curry	Message Ministries
Ollie		Jason	Arthur	The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph	The General Theological Seminary
		David		Emanuel Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
		Doc		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.*



Please mark your calendars for the Annual Church Picnic which will be held at Kellystone Park on **June 18th** beginning at **10:00a.m.** Father David Hanselman will conduct Holy Eucharist. Please bring a dish to pass and place settings. Our invitation is also extended to Zion Greene and St. Paul's in Oxford. Once again a reminder of St. Ann's annual picnic at Kellystone Park. Father David will conduct Holy Eucharist at 10a.m. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table setting. This will also be a great time to honor all fathers as we celebrate Father's Day.

Birthdays

6/01 Mya Boston
6/09 Stephanie Ruberto
6/22 Mike DeBetta



Anniversaries

6/23 Alan & Jane Seacat

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



CHURCH TERMS: PHOENIX – (large bird similar to an Eagle) According to legend, this large bird lived to be five hundred years old and then set its nest on fire and was consumed. Three days later out of the ashes came a new live bird that lived for the next five hundred years and followed the same procedure. Because of its return to life, the phoenix has become a symbol of the resurrection.

THE BEAUTY THAT SURROUNDS US

God's glory is on tour in the skies, God-craft on exhibit across the horizon.

Psalm 19:1 MSG

Each morning the sun rises upon a glorious world that is a physical manifestation of God's infinite power and His infinite love. And yet we're sometimes too busy to notice.

We live in a society filled with more distractions than we can possibly count and more obligations than we can possibly meet. Is it any wonder, then, that we often overlook God's handiwork as we rush from place to place, giving scarcely a single thought to the beauty that surrounds us?

Today take time to really observe the world around you. Take time to offer a prayer of thanks for the sky above and the beauty that lies beneath creation. The time you spend celebrating God's wonderful world is always time well spent.

Creation is filled with stunning variety and exquisite beauty. The delicate, intricate, and fragile, as well as the strong, mighty, and powerful, testify sweetly to the richness of the Creator.

Marilyn Meberg

An interesting article

I went to church on Sunday. I used to go all the time. Not sure why I stopped. Maybe it was because Sundays morphed into a day to sleep in, have brunch with friends, and then watch sports until evening, living the "Sunday-funday" lifestyle. Regardless of why I went to church on Sunday or why I stopped going, I left thinking to myself, I want to come back again next week. It also made me think, perhaps we should all return to [our religious community](#). Fewer and fewer Americans are attending religious services, and our society is reflecting the loss of morality. "Americans' membership in houses of worship continued to decline... dropping below 50% for the first time in Gallup's eight-decade trend. In 2020, 47% of Americans said they belonged to a church, synagogue, or mosque, down from 50% in 2018 and 70% in 1999." Church membership had been at 70% or above since the statistic started to be measured in 1937. In addition, more and more people have not only stopped attending religious services, but have [completely left religion behind](#), with one-fifth of all Americans embracing no religion at all. "This pattern continues with Generation Z... in terms of identity, Generation Z is the least religious generation yet. More than one-third (34%) of Generation Z are religiously unaffiliated, a significant larger proportion than among millennials (29%) and Generation X (25%)." Research shows that churches (all houses of worship) have to replace 32% of their membership each year just to stay even. The fact that each generation is less religious than the previous generation is often attributed to the fact that fewer and fewer children are exposed to religious experiences, going to church on a regular basis or even

experiences as simple as saying Grace before a meal. This then leads to them being less religious, and the cycle repeats itself. The COVID pandemic was devastating to the collective religious community, with one in three practicing [Christians dropping out](#) of church completely. Post-pandemic, the share of all U.S. adults who say they attend religious services at least monthly is down from 33% to 30%, and one in five Americans say they now attend in person less often than they did before the pandemic. This is a dangerous development, for when people leave their religious community, they are often left to face the world alone, or worse, they develop an unhealthy "online" addiction, as they look to replace their religious community with any community. People are less and less able to turn to close friendships for support. In 1990, 27% of Americans reported having three or fewer close friends. Today, that number is 49%. Nearly 40% of Americans report only having online friendships, while 12% of Americans report having no friend at all. While correlation is certainly not causation, we can see a correlation between the breakdown of the family and decreasing religious affiliation. In the United States today, "nearly 24 million children live in a single-parent family. This total, which has been rising for half a century, covers about one in every three children across America. A number of long-term demographic trends have fueled this increase, including: marrying later, declining marriage rates, increasing divorce rates and an uptick in babies born to single mothers." This trend correlates with the decrease in religious affiliation.

In addition, [suicide has increased](#) in correlation with people leaving the church. "Suicide rates increased 37% between 2000-2018 and decreased 5% between 2018-2020. However, rates nearly returned to their peak in 2021." When people lose hope and consider suicide, not having a priest, rabbi or imam to talk with facilitates the taking of one's own life.

There is not just a downside to the decrease in religious affiliation, there is a loss to society. Participation in organized religion, no matter what the religion, has several benefits. People who are active in religious congregations tend to be "happier and more civically engaged than either religiously unaffiliated adults or inactive member of religious groups," per Pew Research. These people also volunteer to a greater extent and donate more money to charities. Researchers at the Mayo Clinic have concluded, "most studies have shown that religious involvement and spirituality are associated with [better health outcomes](#), including greater longevity, coping skills, and health-related quality of life; less anxiety, depression and suicide."

I went to church on Sunday. I am going to go back next week. Be it attending a mosque on Friday, [temple on Saturday](#), or church on Sunday, perhaps it is time we all reengage with our religious communities.



Vestry Hi-lites May 21, 2023

1. Outreach: Voted to support the Afton Glenwood Cemetery Association purchase of new software for the operation of the association with our \$600 monthly outreach payment each year in May.
2. New brackets have been purchased for the cameras in the Church.
3. Carrie Scofield Broadbent has been called to the Diocese of Maryland as Bishop coadjutor. Voted to send her \$200 towards the purchase of new vestments for the position.
4. The dehumidifier in the Church basement may be going bad. Approved the purchase of a replacement if it is necessary. Old unit to be inspected to see if there are problems. Cost would be in area of \$325.00.
5. The purchase of a stand, on wheels, for the large screen TV was approved to allow for its use at services. Cost is expected to be in \$100 +/-.
6. Financial report presented and accepted. Actual is tracking budget with minor exceptions.

Humor for the hard times

Pastor and theologian John Piper is well known for his passion in preaching. Piper's sermons often involve sweeping hand gestures.

Recently, Piper's hand gestures were so exuberant that his smart watch thought that the 76-year-old preacher had taken a hard fall and prompted him to call emergency services in the middle of the sermon.

Piper looked down at his Apple Watch and said, "You know what, my phone is telling me that I fell down. I did not fall down. I'm not falling down! I'm standing up! I'm preaching! Good grief, Apple!"

The crowd exploded with laughter.

Fall detection is a standard safety feature of Apple watches that will flag sudden movement and prompt help in the event a user is injured.

– via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
Dover, DE



God's kids say & do the funniest things

"Where does the good Lord live?" asked the Sunday School teacher of a four-year-old boy in her class.

"In our bathroom," replied the youngster.

"What makes you think so?" the teacher asked.

"Because," the boy replied, "I hear my Dad shout, 'Good Lord, are you still in there?'"

– Pastor Tal Bonham



On a trip to Italy, a little girl accompanied her parents to St. Peter's Basilica, the world's second largest church.

The tour guide explained, "This church is so large that no one on earth could hit a baseball from one end to the other – not Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, or Miguel Cabrera."

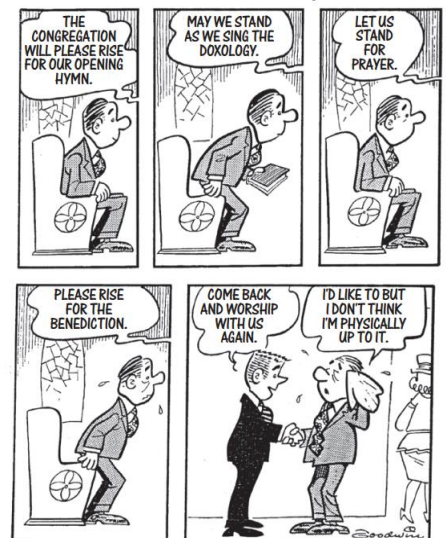
"You mean," the girl asked, "they actually let them hit baseballs in here?"

– via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
Dover, DE



PHILLIP'S FLOCK

By Doc Goodwin



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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The Final Word

Self-Esteem Matthew 28:20— *“Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Think of who said these words--Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, he who took part in Creation and who was from the beginning. He promised to go with us personally and to go with us always--to the end of the age or end of the world. Would you spend every minute of every day with someone you did not value? Christ has placed on your incredible value by making this promise--the power of his personal presence.

NLT – GEZ

St. Ann's Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 22
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 AND ACTION

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

