

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 showers bring May flowers. That's the promise at least (and yes, I'll spare you my joke about "what do Mayflowers bring"). A reliable source told me a sobering, if not shocking, bit of news about May. It seems the official average last freeze has been moved up to mid-May. There are fundamental changes happening that we need to be aware of if we are to obey God's command and be faithful caretakers of this world.

But what I really want to share with you this month is a wonderful surprise – a book that I must thank Sophia for suggesting to me: Kurt Vonnegut's *The Sirens of Titan*. At first, it reminded me of Douglas Adams' *Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*. Even though *Sirens* is not an obvious work of Christian faith, I quickly became fascinated by the ethical and theological themes that play

out in it.

First and foremost, the role God plays in *Sirens* is a thoroughly Aristotelean God. Now, before your eyes glaze over, let me say that a lot of Christian theology is derived from Aristotle – all the "Omnis" of God – omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, and omnibenevolent. Aristotle-inspired Christian theology also says that God is immutable and impassible – God does not change in any way and God does not experience emotional change. There are some passages in Scripture which seem to support at least some of these attributes, but I think you can see that from a purely Scriptural point of view, it's not easy to reconcile the God of theology with the God of Scripture.

That's one part of the story, but another is the interplay of different ethical perspectives ("philosophies" according to the book). To my mind, the most interesting perspective comes from the character Beatrice: "The worst thing that could possibly happen to anybody," she said, "would be to not be used for anything by anybody." Now, one statement cannot sum up the entire book. Digging deeper into it, there's some important truths about our relationship with others that we can appreciate from a faith perspective. Thank you for recommending *Sirens of Titan* to me Sophia!

MAY 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	
May 7	HC	T. Vail	T. Vail	T. Tallmadge	
May 14	MP	C. Cimini	C. Cimini	D. Vail	
May 21	HC	P. Tucker	P. Tucker	B. Vail	
May 28	MP	C. Tarvin	C. Tarvin	B. Vail	
June 4	HC	C. Cimini	C. Cimini	B. Vail	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
May 7	HC	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
May 14	MP	Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:7-18	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
May 21	HC	Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
May 28	MP	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:25-35, 37	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23
June 4	HC	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalm 8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:

May 14: C. Cimini/T.Tallmadge

May 28: B. Vail/C. Cimini



Altar Duty for the month of May is Pat Tucker 607-206-4319. 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 **May 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		Bobbi	Terra	Bishop Michael Curry	Message Ministries
		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, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.*



MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I come to You today lifting mothers everywhere in the world. I pray that You would give them the strength to meet the demands of motherhood. May You give them the wisdom to raise their children according to Your Word. Father, give them the courage to stand up for what is right, even when it's hard. Most of all, I pray that they would know Your love for them. May they experience the joys of being a mother and that Mother's Day would be a memorable day for them. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

This information is taken from the book, “Whole Christianity” by The Reverend Hugh C. Edsall, a priest of the Episcopal Church. We hope you will find it both interesting and informative.

“Is it really rational to believe in God?”

If the answer to this question is “no,” then the existence of churches and the practice of the Christian religion is ridiculous. So, “does God exist?” Well, Christians aren’t the only ones who believe that God exists. Cultural studies indicate that, over the whole course of recorded human history, most people have believed in some form of deity. Physical scientists of all types and in large numbers acknowledge a personal belief in God—a belief that some form of primary intelligence is behind the intricate and nearly infinite order which they observe. Even those unwilling to acknowledge a personal belief in the existence of this intelligence admit that such belief is not contrary to reason. The beauty of the physical universe itself presents incontrovertible evidence of intelligibility and order. People called “theists,” (those who believe in the existence of God) assert that it requires more credulity to believe that the universe could have come about unguided, by chance and accident, than it does to conclude that it proceeded from an intelligence which is both orderly and beautiful. The “atheist,” (one who does not believe in the existence of God) has to assert that the order of the universe came about undirected through the operation of chaos and chance. Let’s think about that. Scientists tell us that there are three hundred trillion (300,000,000,000,000) synapses or electrical connections in the human brain, all working in amazing order, reproduced over and over again, every time a baby is born. Microbiologists have now identified the wonderful chains of DNA in individual cells, determining all of the characteristics of the person to whom they are attached. The atheist would have us believe that all this evolved out of chaos, without design or direction. The Church teaches that it evolved in accordance with the plan of the Supreme Intelligence. Sadly, many believe that you cannot be a Christian unless you are a “creationist,” a person who believes that God created everything in six days, five to ten thousand years ago, just as you see it today. You can believe that if you like, and God could have done it that way; but the idea flies in the face of very impressive scientific evidence that the known universe has been developing in an orderly fashion for some twenty billion years. Scientists give much credence to the “Big Bang” theory, that it all began from one location in a tremendous explosion of light and energy, and continued to develop and evolve until we behold what is now before us. They further believe that the evolution and development aren’t over yet. In no way do these scientific hypotheses contradict the Church’s teaching that God created all that is, and us in particular! But what about the stories in Genesis: about the six days and all of that? Well, that is a topic for another newsletter.



5/3 Adleigh Noone

5/5 Pat Tucker

5/11 Betty Vail

5/20 Kathy Vail

5/22 Allyson Vail

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

cttallmadge@aol.com or 607-343-1301



Mark your calendar for St. Ann's Community Outreach

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023
12:30 – 2:00

SOUP, SANDWICH & FRIENDSHIP
ALL ARE WELCOME.
HOMEMADE BY AMY
THE HOST & PROPRIETOR OF FLAMING BAG CATERING



A warm "THANK YOU" to Judy Rettberg for her birthday card ministry, to Gary Zurn for his work as treasurer for St. Ann's and to Bobbi Zurn for her continued "behind the scenes" support of this Parish.

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.



CHURCH TERMS: May 18 - ASCENSION DAY – The Thursday, forty days after Easter, on which the Ascension of our Lord is commemorated. Acts1: 1-11.

WHITSUNDAY—Same as Pentecost. Name comes from the custom of robing those to be confirmed in white vestments. It is the Festival of the Holy Spirit, fifty days after Easter. Liturgical color. **Red**



Some definitions:

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

BULLETIN: Your receipt for attending the service. **HYMN:** a song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

INCENSE: Holy Smoke! **KYRIE ELEISON:** The only Greek words that most Episcopalians can recognize besides gyros and baklava. (It means Lord have mercy.) **MAGI:** The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

A little-known fact about the Catholic Church in Las Vegas: There are more churches in Las Vegas than casinos. During Sunday services, at the offertory, some worshipers contribute casino chips as opposed to cash. Some are sharing their winnings; some are hoping to win. Since they get chips from so many different casinos, and they are worth money, the Catholic churches are required to send all the chips into the diocese for sorting. Once sorted into the respective casino chips, one junior priest takes the chips and makes the rounds to the casinos turning chips into cash. And he, of course, is known as: The **Chip Monk**.

May 14th. has been designated as the date for the Spring "ingathering" for the UTO.

The first United Thank Offering was in 1889 and began as part of Missionary efforts of the Women's Auxiliary to the Board of Mission authorized by General Convention in 1871. Julia Emery, secretary to the Women's Auxiliary, and Ida Soule, who counted the missionary offering of the 1886 Triennial meeting Women, inspired women to pray and give coins with the idea of building a new church in Anvik, Alaska as well as sending Miss Lisa Lowell as a missionary to Japan. In that year, the offering reached \$2,188.64. These women dreamed of supporting mission work. It is now our time to dream of how we can make a difference with the message of thanksgiving and self-giving, and always with grateful hearts.

The United Thank Offering is a way for men, women, and children to give daily thanks to God with a sense of gratitude. The discipline begins at home by placing coins in the blue envelope or box. In years past the "blue boxes" of the UTO have been used as a Sunday School project, for the purpose of helping others. Now, that offer is, on a yearly basis, between two and a half and three million dollars, all of which is used for projects at home and abroad. "Thankful coins from thankful hearts."

The UTO is awarded hundreds of grants each year. The expenses of the UTO are carefully controlled and volunteer committees are supported by the income from designated trust funds. Any surplus is also used for grants. The general budget of the Episcopal Church USA supports the UTO office.

Everyone can become part of UTO by offering thanks and prayers as part of your daily life with Christ, while dropping coins in the blue box or envelope. It is a good reminder to give thanks to God for the gifts that have been given to us.....a child's smile, a beautiful day, for healing of hurts, for garden fruits, for rain, for our families...HOW LONG IS YOUR LIST? Why not consider supporting the UTO effort.

MEMORIAL DAY - May 29th
Honor Our Nation; Honor Our Veterans.
Fly your American Flag! May God Bless America!



HUGS FOR THE FAMILY

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins.”

1 Peter 4:8 NIV

In this fast-paced world, life can be difficult and pressures intense. As those pressures build, you may tend to focus so intently on your obligations that you lose sight, however temporarily, of your spiritual and emotional needs. (That’s one reason a regular daily quiet time is so important—it offers a badly needed dose of perspective.)

Even when the demands of life are great, never forget that you have been entrusted with a profound responsibility; the responsibility of contributing to your family’s emotional and spiritual well-being. It’s a big job, but with God’s help, you’re up to the task. Let the hugs begin!!

“Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need it.”

Jane Howard



Vestry Hi-lights for April

April 16, 2023, meeting

1. Outreach for April designated to go to the Afton United Methodist Church to help them with repairs to their sanctuary.
2. Reminded all that Amy Wieber is hosting her free lunch on April 21st. at the Parish Hall, from 12:30 to 2. The next lunch date is May 19th. from 12:30 to 2. The lunches are excellent.
3. The purchase of another camera and cable was approved for zooming services.
4. Information from the chancellor of the Diocese was presented and discussed.
5. Suggested that the church furnace be turned off during the non-freezing months to eliminate the need for keeping the boiler at a minimum temperature.
6. June 18th. is the tentative date for a picnic/service at Kellystone Campsites.
7. Financial report was reviewed. We are holding our own. Thanks be to God.

The Final Word

Service: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 – *“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.”.*

The church must be careful not to absorb two common attitudes from the competitive business world. First, business puts a marketability worth upon gifts and services. The greater our abilities, the greater our worth to the company and thus the greater our compensation and status. Also, in the business world there is a well-defined hierarchy the CEO is the more important than the managers. Who are more important than the common workers, who are more important than the janitors and so on. But in the church, all the differing gifts and abilities come from the same Spirit, and all led to service or the good of all. Whether we preach the sermon, sing the solo, welcome people at the door or change diapers in the nursery all who offer their gifts or service are indispensable to the church. Have you recognized your gifts and put them to worthy use?

NLT-GEZ

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

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

