

## 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: 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



#### A Caring Heart (1)

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

Matthew 5:7

Mercy is to personally care about one another's distress and to show understanding for the circumstances of others. In the parable Jesus tells in Luke, He describes three types of people: Takers, Hoarders and Givers. The highwaymen are the Takers. Their philosophy is: "Everything that is yours, is mine. I'll take it." They rob the innocent traveler and walk away from the scene. These people are not necessarily your enemies, sometimes they are even your friends who take everything that they can from you and then leave you to your fate. Takers are only interested in what they can obtain for their own selfish purposes. They have yet to understand what mercy all is about.

*Lord Jesus, give me a caring heart such as You had for sinners, prostitutes, and outcasts, so that I can do Your work in this world. Amen*

#### A Caring Heart (2)

When a priest and a Levite came along the road and saw a man lying there, they moved to the other side. These are the Hoarders in life whose philosophy is, "Everything that is mine, is mine. I'll keep it." They are people with callous hearts, who gather only for themselves. Then a Samaritan came upon the wounded man and felt deeply sorry for him. He represents the Givers in Life—people who practice mercy and display Christian love. Their Philosophy is, "Everything that is mine, if yours. I'll give it." The Samaritan gave of his money, possessions, time sympathy and comfort without even asking whether it was deserved. When we show mercy to others, God will have mercy on us. *Lord Jesus, thank You for having mercy on me when I did not deserve it. Help me to do the same for my fellow man. Amen.*

**SEPTEMBER 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](mailto: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	
Sept 3	HC	B. Vail	B. Vail	B. Vail	
Sept 10	MP	C. Tarvin	C. Tarvin	B. Vail	
Sept 17	HC	P. Tucker	P. Tucker	B. Vail	
Sept 24	MP	T. Vail	T. Vail	B. Vail	
Oct 1	HC	C. Cimini	C. Cimini	B. Vail	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Sept 3	HC	<a href="#">Exodus 3:1-15</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c</a>	<a href="#">Romans 12:9-21</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 16:21-28</a>
Sept 10	MP	<a href="#">Exodus 12:1-14</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 149</a>	<a href="#">Romans 13:8-14</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 18:15-20</a>
Sept 17	HC	<a href="#">Exodus 14:19-31</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 114</a>	<a href="#">Romans 14:1-12</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 18:21-35</a>
Sept 24	MP	<a href="#">Exodus 16:2-15</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45</a>	<a href="#">Philippians 1:21-30</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 20:1-16</a>
Oct 1	HC	<a href="#">Exodus 17:1-7</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16</a>	<a href="#">Philippians 2:1-13</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 21:23-32</a>
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

**MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:**

Sept 10: Denise and Amy Wieber

Sept 24: Carol Cimini



Altar Duty for the month of September 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 September 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
Melrose	Judy		Mya	David	Fr. Steven White	St. Andrews's Church
Bill	MaryAnn		Holly	Terra	Pastor Becky	St. Ann's Church
Rachel&Alan			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	Message Ministries
					The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph	The General Theological Seminary
					Emanuel Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
					Epiphany Church	

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins –  
Carol Vail and Bonnie MacPherson



Diocese.

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

***Mother Elizabeth Groskoph will be conducting Holy Eucharist at St. Ann's on the first and third Sundays. Please welcome her as she assists us this Sunday, September 3rd in the transition of Father David's retirement.***

**There will be a Vestry meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**St. Ann's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a short meeting that is required yearly by Canon Law. Coffee hour and meeting all at the same time!**



#### **BIRTHDAYS**

9/13 TONI WELLER  
9/15 FATHER RALPH  
9/16 CINDY TRICK  
9/19 CALVIN TALLMADGE  
9/26 DENISE WIEBER

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

9/22 MILTON & MARISA HARDING  
9/30 TOM & BETTY VAIL

**Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary [cttallmadg@aol.com](mailto:cttallmadg@aol.com) or 607-343-1301**

**Many thanks to Mado Cimini for repairing the toilet in the parish hall. Thank you Mado!!!**



## All Aboard!

If you've ever looked up and noticed that the ceiling of many churches looks like the inside hull of a ship, you're neither alone nor mistaken. In fact, the very name for the part of the church where the congregation sits are called the "nave" from the Latin word *Navis* which means ship.

Just as the ark transported Noah and his family and animals to new life after the flood, so does the Church hold and transport our community to the promised kingdom of God. But our cruise ship has a greater purpose than merely riding out the storms of life. We are called to use and share this ship that we have been given. The church is less like a luxury liner, and more like a working crew boat...or fishing boat.

Jesus calls Peter and Andrew away from their lives as fishermen. He instead tells them that in following him, they will be fishers for people. Is this how we understand the work of the Church? We are all in the same boat, but do we understand it to be a vessel that constantly has its nets in the water fishing for people?

The Rev. Jay Angerer shared the top three reasons Episcopalians avoid inviting people to church. The first, he said, was that people say; "I don't want to look like a whacko." The second reason; "I'm not sure what to say." The third reason was the most telling; "No, *seriously*, I really don't want to look like a whacko!" Fr. Jay has a great sense of humor, and a keen bit of insight. We like our "lifeboat" a lot, but for many of us, it feels very risky to tell other people about the difference that following Jesus is making in our lives.

Here's an alternative. The next time you are talking with someone (who you already are in relationship with), especially if they are having a tough time with some aspect of their life, just say, "You know...going to church and receiving Communion is really making a difference in my life." That's not being "preachy" or judgmental. It is being truthful and factual. It's not being whacky; it's being faithful. Jesus calls us to follow him and be fishers of people.

The Very Rev. A. J. Heine, St. Augustine's, Metairie, Louisiana

**Thoughts to Ponder: DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN, BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN, IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN, IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN, AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN, TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN, AS LONG AS YOU CAN. Attributed to John Wesley**

### Curious questions related to the English language:

- "If teachers taught, why didn't preachers paught?"
- "If a vegetarian eats vegetable, what does a humanitarian eat?"
- "How come a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?"



**CHURCH TERMS:** AGNUS DEI - Latin, "Lamb of God." (1) The name of the portion of the Communion Service sung just before the Administration. The words are those of John the Baptist when he pointed out Jesus to his disciples. John 1:29. (2) A lamb as an emblem of Christ. The Suffering Lamb is shown with a cross, the Triumphal Lamb with a waving banner, and the Enthroned Lamb seated on the Book of Seven Seals -- Revelation.



### Vestry Hi-lites

#### Vestry Hi-lites from July, 2023

1. Discussion on outreach for July and August with July being designated to "Crime Victims" organization and August divided equally between the Chenango Co. SPCA and the Broome Co. Humane Society.
2. Accepted, with regret, Fr. David's letter of resignation and approved the signing of the necessary documents.
3. Voted to give a cash gift to Fr. David as a "going away" present.
4. Reviewed Fr. David's "exit interview."
5. Read a letter from Chenango Co. SPCA thanking the Parish for their recent donation.
6. Reviewed and approved financial report.

*Serving Others with Love*

*I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.*

Matthew 25:40 NCV

The most esteemed men and women are not the leaders of society or the captains of industry—the greatest among us are those who choose to minister and to serve.

Today you may feel the temptation to build yourself up in the eyes of your neighbors. Resist that temptation. Instead, serve others quietly and without fanfare. Find a need and humbly fill it. Anonymously lend a helping hand. Share a word of kindness.

When you take time to minister to those in need, when you've done your best to serve your neighbors and to serve your God, you can rest comfortably knowing that in His eyes you have achieved greatness.

*If you want to influence others to serve and help you make a difference, you will get back what you give out. The service ethic always boomerangs.*

(Sheila Murray Bethel)



We received a message from Canon Tom about our next step in finding a new ministry. We will be meeting with him in September to discuss the next step. We will keep you all posted as we go through this process. Any questions or concerns, please feel free to let Dan or I know.

Thank you. Tracey

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



"Are vegetarians allowed to eat animal crackers?"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
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"How come there's a forbidden fruit but not a forbidden vegetable?"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
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## Signs and wonders

**S**ign outside Lititz (PA) Moravian Church:  
"God has faith in you!"  
— via Pastor Dean R. Jurgen

A television reporter in Washington D.C. reported that a maintenance man for a local church walked around the perimeter of the church and notified that the outside air conditioner was gone.

Then the church put up the following message on its outside sign:

"To the person who stole our A/C: Keep it. You'll need it where you are going."

— via Ruth Yates  
Hagerstown, MD

Sign outside St. Anne's by the Fields Episcopal Church, Ankeny, IA:

"Autumn leaves, Jesus doesn't!"

— via Rev. Dale Schoening  
Madrid, IA

Sign seen at Manchester, MD, Baptist Church:

"Come as you are. You can change inside."

— Lorene Irving  
Lutherville Timonium, MD

### Forgive yourself.

"Forgive yourself. Forgive yourself for who you were last week, last month, or last year. Forgive yourself for when you were exhausted and snapped at the people you love. Forgive yourself for not being able to do it all. Forgive yourself for your fears. Forgive yourself for your mistakes. Forgive yourself for eating one cookie too many. Forgive yourself for not being perfect. We often look at forgiveness as an intellectual act, but forgiveness is very spiritual. It is one of the most spiritual things we can do. When we forgive, we acknowledge that we are far bigger and greater than one individual moment. When we forgive, we are saying to the universe: I will not imprison myself or anyone else with anger, shame, judgment, or resentment. Gift yourself this freedom."

— Cleo Wade  
via Apple Seeds

## The Final Word

**STRESS: Exodus 16: 1-3;** *Then they left Elim and journeyed into the Sin Desert, between Elim and Mount Sinai. There too, the whole community of Israel spoke bitterly against Moses and Aaron. “Oh, that we were back in Egypt,” they moaned. ‘It would have been better if the LORD had killed us there! At least there we had plenty to eat. But now you have brought us into the desert to starve us to death.’*

The Israelites didn’t really want to be back in Egypt—after all they had been slaves there. They just wanted life to be a little easier. In the pressure of the moment, they could not see the cause of their stress (in this case, lack of trust in God). Instead, they longed for a quick escape and complained to each other about their problems.

When pressure comes your way, resist the temptation to look for an easy way out or to complain to those around you. Instead, focus on God’s power and wisdom to help you deal with the situation at hand.

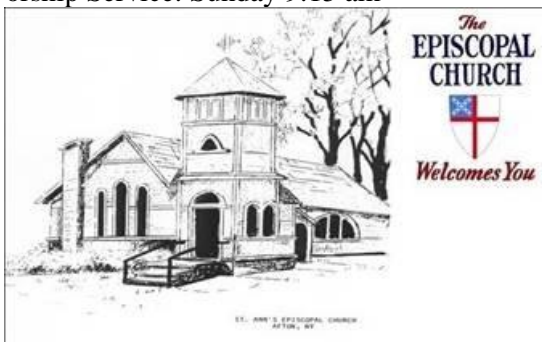
**St. Ann’s Episcopal Church**  
**P. O. Box 22**  
**Afton, New York 13730**

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 COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER. STUDY  
 AND ACTION

**Clergy:** Currently Supply Priests

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here



 September 