

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

NEWS

From Our Parish

Prayer is a Spiritual Discipline

After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone.

(Matthew 14:23)

Everyone who yearns to develop a meaningful spiritual life must be willing to be disciplined. Without discipline faith has emotion but lacks the quality for spiritual growth.

The most important component in the development of a stable and positive faith is the nurturing of a living and powerful prayer life. The Master, our Example in prayer, kept a conscientious watch over His times of personal friends to be alone with God. This means that your devotional appointments with your heavenly Father should be kept faithfully and conscientiously.

I call out to You, O Lord, and cast my sorrows, my doubts, and my needs on you. Because I know that You will hear my prayer. Amen.

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.



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 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	
Jan. 7	ZOOM	Selected at service	Selected at service	N/A	
Jan 14	ZOOM	Selected at service	Selected at service	N/A	
Jan 21	ZOOM	Selected at service	Selected at service	N/A	
Jan 28	ZOOM	Selected at service	Selected at service	N/A	
Feb 4	ZOOM	Selected at service	Selected at service	N/A	
Feb 11	ZOOM	Selected at service	Selected at service	N/A	
Feb 18	ZOOM	Selected at service	Selected at service	N/A	
Feb 25	ZOOM	Selected at service	Selected at service	N/A	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Jan 7	ZOOM	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Jan 14	ZOOM	1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)	Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Jan 21	ZOOM	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:6-14	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
Jan 28	ZOOM	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
Feb 4	ZOOM	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-12, 21c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
Feb 11	ZOOM	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
Feb 18	ZOOM	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-9	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
Feb 25	ZOOM	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:22-30	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:

January 7 - Carol Cimini
 January 14 - Tracey Tallmadge
 January 21 - Daniel Vail
 January 28 - Amedeo Cimini
 February 4 - Tom Vail
 February 11 - Betty Vail
 February 18 - Annette Patten
 February 25 - Terry Weir



ALTAR Duty for the month of **March** is **Tracey Tallmadge** 607-343-1301. 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 **Jan/Feb 2024**

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	Judy	Carol	Cindy		Fr. David Hanselman	St. Paul's Church	
MaryAnn		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		Search for Rector	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, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.



St. Ann's will begin Zoom services during the months of January and February, returning to in-church services on March 3rd. These Zoom services will be conducted by a Lay person from St. Ann's and Zion

Episcopal in Greene. If you have not tried Zooming from your home, you might find that it is satisfying to remain at home on a bitter cold, snowy, icy day and partake in a 45-minute live church service. On January 7th, you can join in at 9:00 a.m. with the service beginning at 9:15. Click on the link that has been e-mailed to you and give it a try or go to the website and use the link listed there.



At this time of the newsletter publication, there have been no arrangements made for a Priest to conduct an Ash Wednesday service at St. Ann's. This is due to lack of Clergy in our area. If this changes, we will advise.

GOD'S POWER TO RENEW

Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31 NKJV

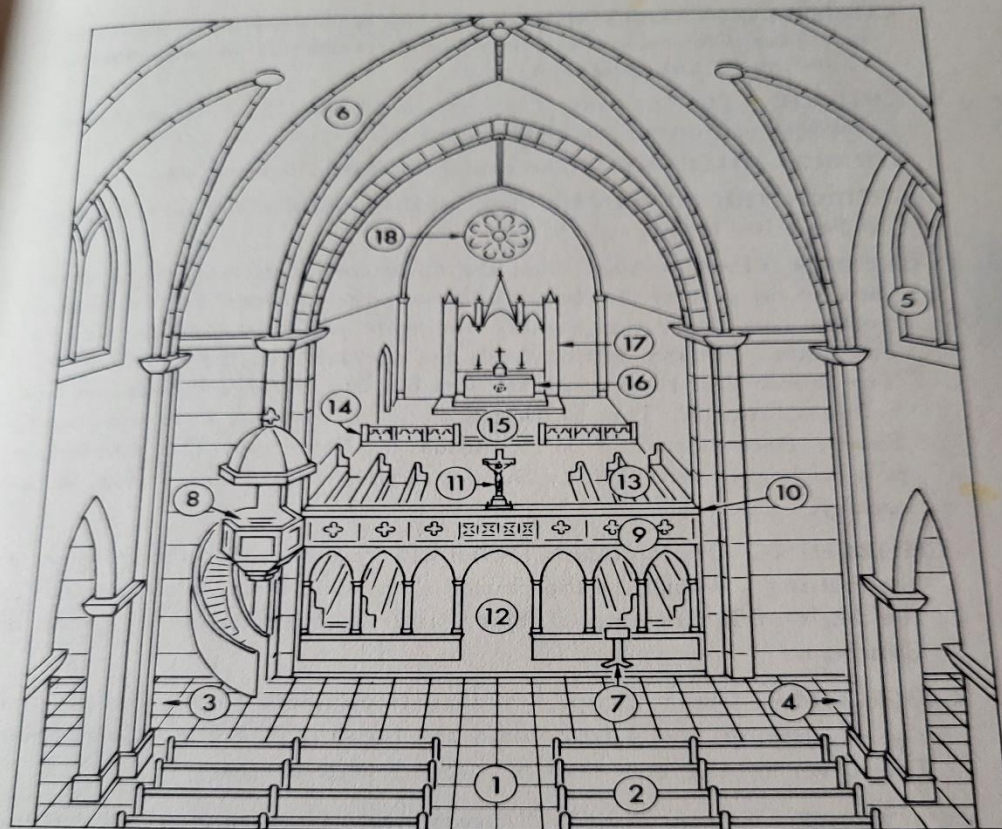
For busy people living in a fast-paced, twenty-first century world, life may seem like a merry-go-round that never stops spinning. If that description seems to fit your life, you may find yourself running short of patience or strength—or both.

When you feel tired or discouraged, there is a source from which you can draw the power needed to recharge your spiritual batteries. That source is God.

"We will not be worshiping in Church for Jan and Feb, but the expenses still go on. Don't forget to keep up your financial support of St. Ann's. Your vestry thanks you."



CHURCH TERMS AND SYMBOLS



THE CRUCIFORM CHURCH INTERIOR

A view looking east from the nave of a church with a cruciform floor plan. (See illustration on page 64.)

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The nave. | 7. The lectern. | 13. The choir stalls. |
| 2. The pews. | 8. The pulpit. | 14. The altar rail. |
| 3. The north transept. | 9. The rood screen. | 15. To the sanctuary area. |
| 4. The south transept. | 10. The rood beam. | 16. The altar. |
| 5. The clerestory. | 11. The rood cross. | 17. The reredos. |
| 6. The vaulted ceiling. | 12. To the chancel area. | 18. The rose window. |



A thank you from the Episcopal Church UTO

Dear St. Anns Church:

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$300 to the United Thank Offering Fall Ingathering. 100% of your gift will support innovative mission and ministry projects addressing welcome and inclusivity. We are so grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

The UTO Board and Staff

A Sign

By The Most Rev. George Carey

“And this shall be a sign unto you: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” [Luke 2:12](#)

A sign. It is important to remember that Christmas itself is only a sign. A sign speaks of something beyond itself. All the trappings of Christmas – the decorated tree, lights, the presents we give, the crib, tinsel, crackers, the eating and drinking which make up our celebrations – are only signs. But what, please, is Christmas a sign of?

Christmas is a sign of God’s presence with us.

You see, even at the time, it was only a sign. The baby did not open his eyes and started preaching a sermon. He did not hand out “Sayings of Jesus,” or give Christmas presents. The baby was only a sign and could only have been understood later considering the life of the person who was to be Savior of the World. Indeed, here is a reminder that Christmas can only be understood considering later events, can only be discovered in all its wonderful freshness and life when we discover for ourselves that Jesus is the human face of God. The sign of God with us, Emmanuel.

But a sign also of God’s commitment to his world. You see, Christmas is linked with the season of Advent – the season of hope -- which sets before us the hope of his coming to restore all things and bring all things to a glorious conclusion. This is the message of Christmas: Come home. Come home to his love. Come home to an understanding of the world which puts God at the center. Christmas is a sign of God’s gracious invitation to celebrate his love personally by welcoming him into our hearts and lives, not just once a year but every day we live.

May God bless us all this Christmas time as we make our way to the Manger and celebrate the gift of his love and life.



Vestry Hi-lights for December

1. Outreach for December was sent to the Rescue Mission of Binghamton, Syracuse, and Auburn. January outreach was divided between Danielle House and Mom’s House. February outreach was divided three ways among: Chenango Co. SPCA, Delaware Co. SPCA and Every Dog’s Dream in Endicott. Vestry was updated on status of rector search process.
2. Services for January and February will be held on “zoom” with services to be conducted by lay readers from St. Ann’s and Zion.
3. Pledge and assessment amounts to the Diocese were approved.
4. The status of our Stewardship program, for 2024, was reviewed.
5. Snow removal reviewed. Also, the sidewalk in front of Church has settled. Village to be contacted.

6. Accepted, with thanks, the donation of groundskeeping statement given as a donation by Ron Sherman.
7. Request for a reclining chair will be considered by Vestry.
8. Financial report and analysis reviewed with thanks to Gary Zurn for his work. November DDA statement with check copies reviewed.

The Scrouging of America

"I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of being pushed around, period. Where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? There are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

Considering recent events...terrorist attacks, school shootings, etc. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare complained that she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school...The Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK. Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says.

Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.

Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us."

From CBS commentator Steven Levy

4 Briella Harding
15 Tyler Wright
20 Ron Sherman
27 Cindy Sherman



Bonnie MacPherson



2/2 Tom Vail
2/18 Carol Tarvin

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

The Final Word

**STRENGTH: Isaiah 40:29-31**

He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; He offers strength to the weak. Even youths will become exhausted, and young men will give up but those who wait on the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like Eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

Even recreational joggers will sometimes experience the phenomenon of a second wind. You're unsure of making it another 50 yards when out of nowhere there comes a surge of new strength. Breathing is no longer labored, legs are no longer dead weight, and you can actually pick up the pace. Most serious runners come to expect this phrase of the run and they learn to trust that even when their bodies are nearing exhaustion, the second wind will come. Scripture promises a spiritual second win for those who learn to wait on God impatient, hopeful, independent expectation. God does not often relieve us of our particular race or struggle, but he will infuse us with his strength to finish the course. When you feel like giving up, go to the source of all strength and wait for his second wind.

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: Currently Supply Priests

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

