

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: 761-4601 Office: 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 can't be reached, please contact one of the wardens.

Wardens: Betty Vail: 639-1201 Tracey Tallmadge: 343-1301



Welcome December! Welcome Advent! Welcome Christmas!

Among other things in December, please remember to return your pledge card so we can start putting together next year's budget.

What's foremost on my mind right now though, is to once again thank you from the very bottom of my heart for supporting me through my sabbatical. Seeds were planted at that time and they're starting to sprout now.

You gave me the freedom to go back and reread the topic in philosophy that occupied years of my life – it was refreshing, and I came to understand the topic more deeply than I did before. But at the time I had no idea if it would be anything more than me just renewing a long set-aside interest. Your support also gave me the freedom to do some traveling I never would have done – going by myself to Baxter State Park to spend some time in the shadow of Mt Katahdin was sublime and life-giving for me. But during my sabbatical (our sabbatical?), I also began to feel the need to find news ways of communicating. In particular, a vague feeling began to take shape that I could do something with the YouTube platform. But then I came back and for awhile set aside the experience of sabbatical in order to get back into parish work. But in the background, the seeds that were planted began to sprout. In my spare moments, I began to feel the need to communicate that “priests are people too”. Priests are approachable and real people who usually are just trying to use all the gifts God has given. Priests are individuals. Individuals united in a common love of Gospel and church community, as well as a Christ-centered concern for our larger communities and the world. And I am a priest. While you may not be surprised, it has been a very strange realization for me to comprehend. Yes, it's taken quite a few years for it to sink in.

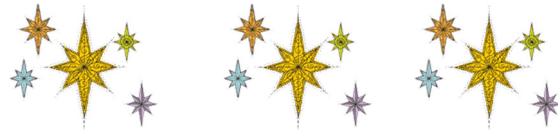
But now I'm excited to report that I've got 4 or 5 videos on my YouTube channel – Fr Dave's Monkey Mind. And, I just got a bunch of work done on a Powerpoint about Hegel's *Science of Logic* and the concept of Trinity. I'm certain none of it would have been possible without the time you all gave me to really consider where I've come from and where I'm going. Other folks played important parts – especially clergy friends encouraging me - but to my mind, it all comes back to the amazing experience of sabbatical. May God bless you as you have been a blessing to me, and so many in our communities, and so many others we may never know! Let us go forth in the name of Christ!

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

Note to all who serve: It would be most helpful if, when you cannot make your assigned date, you would arrange for a substitute. If you are unable to do that, please notify a warden. Thanks for your cooperation!

Service Schedule						
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Dec 2	HC	D.Vail	J.Rettberg	DV	JR	D.Vail/A.Vail
Dec 9	MP	A.Wieber	D.Vail	MH	---	D.Vail
Dec 16	HC	R.Felldin	J.Rettberg	RF	TT	B.Vail/T.Tallmadge
Dec 23	MP	A.Wieber	D.Wieber	TV	---	D.Wieber
Dec 24	HC 4:30pm	Various	Readers	----	DW	A.Cimini/D.Wieber
Dec 30	MP	D.Vail	J.Rettberg	DV	---	B.Vail
Jan 6	HC	C.Cimini	A.Cimini	AC	CC	A.Cimini/B.Vail
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Dec. 2	R.Felldin			Dec.10	B.Vail/T.Tallmadge	
Dec. 9	B.Vail	D.Wieber	M.Harding	Dec 12	J.Rettberg / M.Kelly	
Dec 16	T.Vail					
Dec. 23	K.Vail	B.Vail				
Dec. 30	No Church School	D.Vail	A.Vail			
Lectionary (Year A)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Dec 2		Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36	
Dec 9		Baruch 5:1-9	Canticle 4 or 16	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6	
Dec 16		Zephaniah 3:14-20	Canticle 9	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18	
Dec 23		Micah 5:2-5a	Canticle 3 or 15	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-55	
Dec 24		Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)	
Dec 30		Isaiah 61:1-10— 62:3	Psalm 147 or 147: 13-21	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-18	
Jan 6		Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12	



Altar Duty for the month of December is Betty Vail, 639-1201 and Grace Affuso, 639-2961. If you are giving flowers in memory a loved one, please notify Peter Vail 607-639-1444 no later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that he can include a notice in the bulletin.

CHURCH SCHOOL~ has begun. Even though our numbers are small, it is important that our children receive Christian education. This year we are trying a new method of teaching, Christian video on the new TV system. We do need additional teachers. It is our hope that using this method of teaching will make it easier to work with the children. Please speak to Tom Vail if you can help.

This year, St. Ann's is sponsoring Christmas items to the Afton Elementary Health office which are needed for children. Socks, underwear, gloves, hats are all needed for the young people in grades PreK to 6th grade.

Items will need to be at St. Ann's no later than Sunday, December 16th. A list of sizes is below:

PreK, Kindergarten & 1st grade:

Girls underwear (sizes 4T, XS and Small)

Socks for Girls (XS & Small)

Boys underwear (4T, XS & Small)

Socks for Boys (XS & Small)

Grades 2 – 6:

Girls underwear (Kids 7 to Adult 8)

Socks for Girls (Kids shoe size 10 to Adult 8)

Boys underwear (Kids 7 to Adult 8)

Socks for Boys (Kids shoe size 10 to Adult 8)

Please, NO ankle socks. Your participation in providing items for these young people is very much appreciated. May God Bless you and Merry Christmas!

ADVENT, December 2nd. This is the first season of the Church Year, which begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The first Sunday is called Advent Sunday. A period of preparation for the coming of the Lord at Christmas and at the end of time, it lasts for four weeks, ending at Christmas.

POINSETTIA~ If you desire to purchase a Poinsettia in memory of a loved one for Christmas Eve, please speak with Betty Vail or Tracey Tallmadge. They are a 6" plant and the cost is \$7.00 per plant.

CHRISTMAS EVE~ Holy Eucharist service will begin at 4:30p.m. on December 24th and will be a service traditional Readings and Carols. There will be a silent manger scene during the readings. This should be an inspiring event in the tradition of the Christmas season.

St. Ann's Prayer List for December 2018

It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. A current listing follows. 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. The clergy persons of the Chenango District are included. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. Send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 639-1201. Please note: Long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names for two months unless updated.

Short Term

Raevin
Marion
Dawn
Hailey
Ben
Bill
John
Pat
Chuck
Henry
Charlie
Lucian
Lisa
Tina

Long Term

Fr. David Hanselman	Carol
Fr. Steven White	Peter
Deacon Kay	Joyce
Pastor Becky	Mya
Fr. Geoff Doolittle	Holly
Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	Cindy
Bishop Michael Curry	Lois
The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph	Clifford
Emmanuel Church	Richard
Epiphany Church	Bill
Zion Church	Kevin
St. Paul's Church	Dakota
St. Andrew's Church	Nate
St. Matthew's Church	Hailey
St. Peter's Church	Eli



—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.



12/1 Lexi Cutmore
12/4 Lois Irons
12/8 Woody Robbins
12/16 Sandy Proffitt
12/18 Abigail Burch
12/20 Dan Vail

12/5 Dave & Nancy Setford



Christmas

Every time a hand reaches out
To help another....that is Christmas
Every time someone puts anger aside
And strives for understanding
That is Christmas
Every time people forget their differences
And realize their love for each other
That is Christmas
May this Christmas bring us
Closer to the spirit of human understanding
Closer to the blessing of peace!



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The Episcopal Church typically requests parishioners to state their “intentions” for financial support for the coming year, so that a proposed budget can be prepared to plan for the coming year. As has been the case for many years, everyone has responded generously.

A sincere thank you to all who have returned their “intention” cards. If you have not returned your card and plan to do so, please drop your card in the offering plate Sunday morning or return by mail to the attention of the “Stewardship Committee.” All cards are kept confidential and may be changed if necessary. A sincere “thank-you!” to all for your financial support of your parish.

St. Ann’s Stewardship Committee

VESTRY HI-LITES NOVEMBER VESTRY MEETING

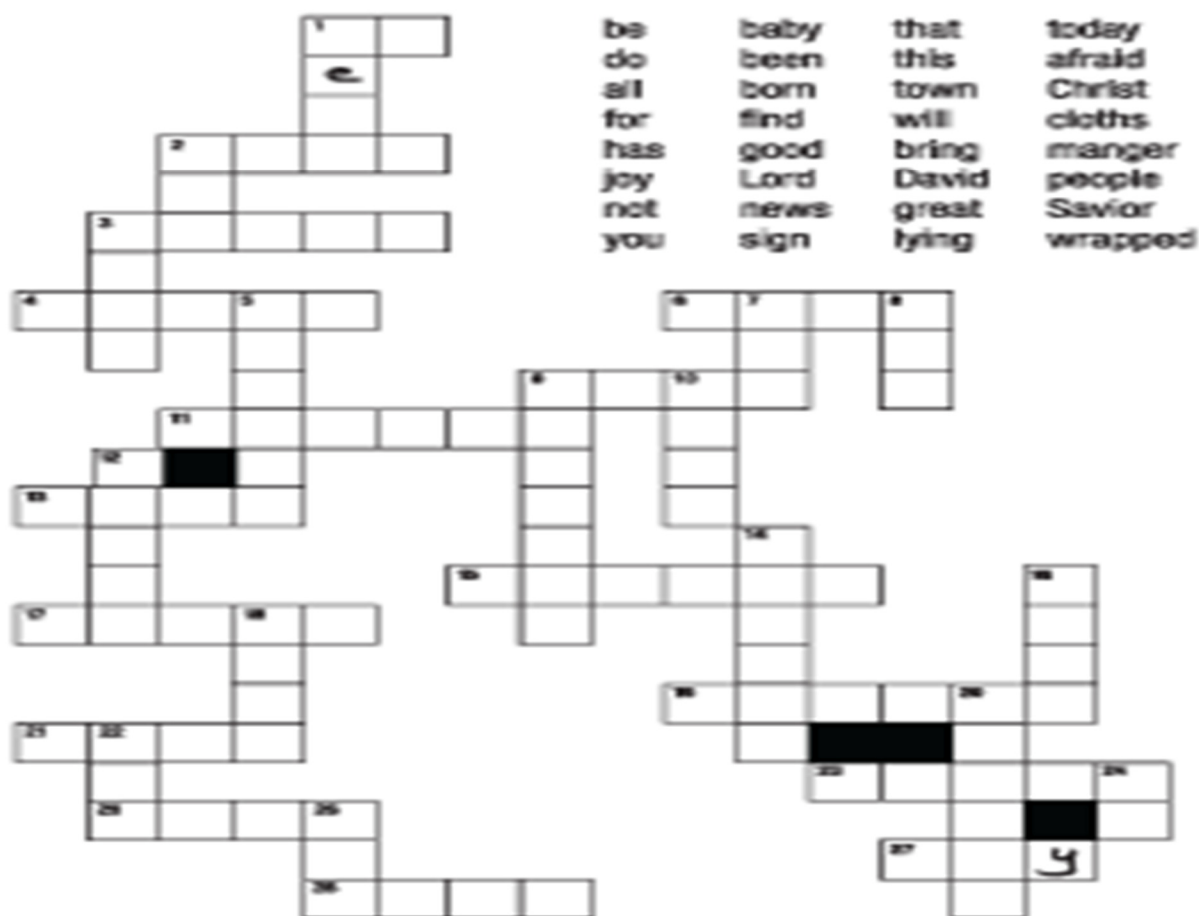
- 1. It was suggested, by a parishioner, that we consider establishing a program for the exchange of hats, gloves, scarfs, etc. in the community. Carol Cimini is looking into the prospects of our putting a box at the library for this purpose. The vestry will support the plan financially.**
- 2. Outreach contributions were approved to the “Voices” drug rehab program in Broome County and to the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. This latter contribution is from funds that were approved to help with the playground at Afton School but which is no longer looking for donations for that project. The Christmas offering will be sent to the General Theological Seminary, supplemented with the December outreach funds of \$200.**
- 3. New Business: This year our Christmas outreach will be to provide underwear and socks for the school nurse at Afton School to distribute to children in need. All parishioners are asked to bring children’s socks and underwear, both boys and girls, and put them in the box at the back of the church.**
- 4. We are planning to have a Christmas tableau/manger scene at the Christmas Eve service.**
- 5. It was approved to purchase two new card tables.**

The Learning Community Initiative team at St Ann's is planning to place a sock and hat table for giveaway near the Food Pantry donation basket at the Church. Each item will be individually placed in a ziplock bag. We are encouraging anyone and everyone who knows of a needy person or for themselves to take an item or 2. Please be sure to let us know if the numbers are getting low so we will restock. Also please take just what you need and leave some for others.

We plan on setting up another venue elsewhere in Afton but have to confirm where and when at a later date. Thank you for your support of this necessary mission! IT IS COLD OUTSIDE! BRRRRR

Puzzle!

The word list contains the angel's Christmas message to the shepherds. Fit those words into the crossword squares. Then write them on the correct lines below to complete Luke 2:10-11, NIV.



24 25 1A 5 3A 8 13 16
of 4 27 16 8A 1A 20 7 the 15
12 in the 23 of 23 a 20 22 10
to 8 ; he is 19 the 10. Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answer: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

The Final Word



Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ... But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter

3:14, 18

This seems to be excellent advice for us as we embark on the season of Advent with its air of anticipation, expectation and contemplation. With all the hype to decorate, buy countless gifts, attend loud, boisterous parties and prepare extravagant meals, how many of us can say that we are at peace and, if we are not, how might we experience that peace?

I would suggest that it involves setting priorities, or, in the words of our Presiding Bishop (PB,) "making some conscious decisions about how to spend your Advent time this year." Granted, there's lots to be done in the brief four weeks until Christmas but how much of it is essential?

If it's important to us we can all find 10 minutes a day in all of our busy-ness, pick a quiet place and spend part of it talking to God and the rest of it listening for His answers. Again, our PB suggests giving thanks for our various blessings. Or you might read the Scripture selections for the coming Sunday and let them speak to you. If you absolutely cannot find time to do this, try praying, praising and thanking God as you are falling asleep each night. I've found it's a great way to end the day and might even help you fall asleep! What better way to get away from the pressure of the secular world? Why not give it a try?

Our society emphasizes caring for our physical and mental health and this is good to a point. But what about our spiritual health? Peter tells us to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. How are we doing with that? In computer programming a common acronym is: GIGO which stands for "Garbage In= Garbage Out." Our spirit is much the same as a computer. What we get out of it depends on what we put in. How are you caring for your spirit? Now is a perfect time to do something for it! Peace be with you.

PCV

St. Ann's Episcopal Church

P. O. Box 22

Afton, New York 13730

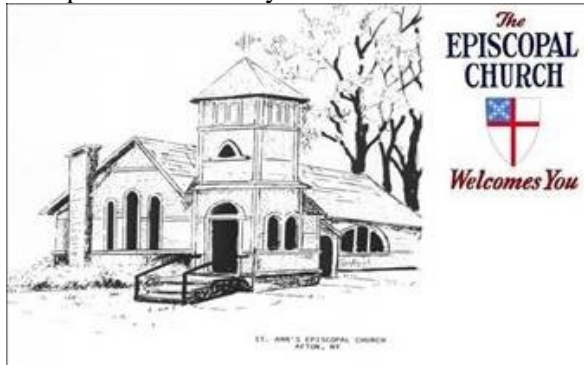
SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR
COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY
AND ACTION

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Wardens: Betty Vail
Tracey Tallmadge

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here



*Blessings
in
Abundance*