

## 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: 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**

It's September! As much as I love summer, between everyone's vacations we end up really missing each other by the end of it. So welcome back!

One thing I want to share with you all is an insight I had while on sabbatical. You see one of the popular goals of sabbatical is for a priest to recall the reasons they entered discernment to be a priest. The meditation can be summed up as "What on earth was I thinking!!??" or "What on earth was God thinking??!!!"

After 7 years of working among you, it was quite a blessing to have sabbatical time to remember and reflect upon why and how I ever got to this point. Simply put, I started off just wanting to be a good Episcopalian.

That's really pretty much it. I started off committing myself to regular Sunday worship. I started doing more and more in my home parish. I found the things I liked doing and the things I didn't like doing and I was really very happy just being a contributing member of my home parish.

But, I was told that our church, the Episcopal Church, needed priests and so I took a big chance and offered myself to the church as a possible priest. We can see what's become of that! But I was thrilled to rediscover the whole reason I ever began this journey - I just wanted to be a good Episcopalian.

Now, it's certainly not the case that in order to be a "good Episcopalian" you have to enter discernment to be a priest. It's quite a process but I honestly would have been just as happy (and really quite relieved!) if I'd received what's called a "holy no" and been told that the priesthood probably wasn't for me. Then I could've turned my attention back to my home parish and done the work I could do there.

My point in telling you this is to first share an important personal insight from sabbatical. Secondly, though, this is just my own personal path. What I think it means for all of us is to just try to be "good Episcopalians" - whatever that might mean to you. Within our church there are so many different roles to explore and challenge us and to help us grow in our faith. Don't be too discouraged if you receive a "holy no". St Paul tells us of many different gifts - all given to us by God to help build up God's ministry through Jesus Christ. Again, thank you for all you do and blessing upon blessing to each one of you!



## 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
Sept 2	HC	C.Cimini	A. Cimini	AC	CC	A.Cimini/B.Vail
Sept 9	MP	P.Tucker	C.Tarvin	DV	----	B.Vail
Sept 16	HC	D.Vail	J.Rettberg	AC	JR	D.Vail/B.Vail
Sept 23	MP	P.Tucker	C.Cimini	BV	----	A.Cimini
Sept 30	MP	B.Vail	J.Rettberg	AC	----	B.Vail
Oct. 7	HC	D.Weiber	C.Tarvin	TV	JR	B.Vail/D.Weiber
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Sept. 9	T.Vail	D.Vail	A.Vail	Sept 10	Pat & Al Tucker	
Sept. 16	N/A			Sept 12	J.Rettberg & J.Seacat	
Sept 23	K.Vail	T.Vail	B.Vail			
Sept 30		C.Cimini	A.Cimini			
Oct 7						
Lectionary (Year A)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Sept 2		Song of Sol. 2:8-13	Ps. 45:1-2, 7-10	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	
Sept 9		Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	Psalm 125	James 2:1-17	Mark 7:24-37	
Sept 16		Proverbs 1:20-33	Psalm 19	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38	
Sept 23		Proverbs 31:10-31	Psalm 1	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37	
Sept 30		Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22	Ps. 124	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50	
Oct 7		Job 1:1-1; 2:1-10	Psalm 26	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16	



**Altar Duty** for the month of September is Pat Tucker, 639-1984. If you are giving flowers in memory of 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.

**St. Ann's Prayer List for September 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  
Ben  
Bill  
John  
Pat  
Chuck  
Dawn  
Bonnie

**Long Term**

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

*We always thank  
GOD for all of you  
and continually  
mention you in  
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

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.*



**Short VESTRY MEETING** will be held on Sunday, September 16, 2018



*A Dedication service in memory of our beloved Duane Kane will take place during the September 16<sup>th</sup>, Holy Eucharist service. There will be time to share memories of Duane if you desire.*

ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN  
CHURCH SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 9TH



9/13 Toni Weller  
9/15 Father Ralph  
9/16 Cindy Johnson  
9/19 Calvin Tallmadge  
9/26 Denise Wieber



9/22 Milton & Marisa Harding  
9/30 Tom & Betty Vail

Please send your birthday/anniversary dates to me @ [cttallmadg@aol.com](mailto:cttallmadg@aol.com) or advise me at church.



### A McDonald's Breakfast story

I am a mother of three (ages 14, 12, 3) and have recently completed my college degree. The last class I had to take was Sociology. The teacher was absolutely inspiring with the qualities that I wish every human being had been graced with. Her last project of the term was called "Smile." The class was asked to go out and smile at three people and document their reactions. I am a very friendly person and always smile at everyone and say hello anyway, so, I thought this would be a piece of cake. Soon after we were assigned the project, my husband, youngest son, and I went out to McDonald's one crisp March morning. It was just our way of sharing special playtime with our son. We were standing in line, waiting to be served, when all of a sudden everyone around us began to back away, and then even my husband did. I did not move an inch. An overwhelming feeling of panic welled up inside of me as I turned to see why they had moved. As I turned around, I smelled a horrible "dirty body" smell, and there standing behind me were two poor homeless men. As I looked down at the short gentleman close to me, he was "smiling". His beautiful sky blue eyes were full of God's Light as he searched for acceptance. He said, "Good day" as he counted the few coins he had been clutching. The second man fumbled with his hands as he stood behind his friend. I realized the second man was mentally challenged and the blue-eyed gentleman was his salvation. I held my tears as I stood there with them. The young lady at the counter asked him what they wanted. He said, "Coffee is all Miss" because that was all they could afford. If they wanted to sit in the restaurant and warm up, they had to buy something. He just wanted to be warm. Then I really felt it - the compulsion was so great I almost reached out and embraced the little man with the blue eyes. That is when I noticed all eyes in the restaurant were set on me, judging my every action. I smiled and asked the young lady behind the counter to give me two more breakfast meals on a separate tray. I then walked around the corner to the table that the men had chosen as a resting spot. I put the tray on the table and laid my hand on the blue-eyed gentleman's cold hand. He looked up at me, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Thank you." I leaned over, began to pat his hand and said, "I did not do this for you. God is here working through me to give you hope." I started to cry as I walked away to join my husband and son. When I sat down my husband smiled at me and said, "That is why God gave you to me, Honey, to give me hope." We held hands for a moment and at that time, we knew that only because of the Grace that we had been given were we able to give. That day showed me the pure Light of God's sweet love. I returned to college, on the last evening of class, with this story in hand. I turned in "my project" and the instructor read it. Then she looked up at me and said, "Can I share this?" I slowly nodded as she got the attention of the class. She began to read and that is when I knew that we as human beings and being part of God share this need to heal people and to be healed. In my own way, I had touched the people at McDonald's, my husband, son, instructor, and every soul that shared the classroom on the last night I spent as a college student. I graduated with one of the biggest lessons I would ever learn: UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE

Much love and compassion is sent to each and every person who may read this and learn how to LOVE PEOPLE AND USE THINGS - NOT LOVE THINGS AND USE PEOPLE.

To handle yourself, use your head.

To handle others, use your heart. God gives every bird its food, but He does not throw it into its nest.



## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS



- Outreach: Voted to send \$200 to the Chenango County Sheriff's Department to help with the purchase of materials for the department's program to help young people with safety issues in Chenango Co. schools. Also voted to send \$1000 from the Todd bequest tithe funds to the Episcopal Relief and Development earmarked for flood victims in the U. S. This leaves \$2000 of these funds to disburse.
- St. Ann's will have a prayer booth at the Afton Sidewalk Days on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Parishioners are encouraged to stop by and print out prayer requests, which will be presented at our September 16<sup>th</sup>. service.
- The smart TV, DVD and wall mount have been purchased and installed. We hope to use this new equipment with Sunday School classes.
- It was decided to have a Communion Service dedication to Duane Kane on September 16<sup>th</sup>. with everyone encouraged to give their remembrances of Duane. Fr. David will have a special service. Any and all friends of Duane are invited to attend. The prayer requests from the August 25<sup>th</sup>. sidewalk days will also be presented at that service.
- The Parish Annual Meeting will be held October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- A suggestion was made for coffee hour hosting and it was agreed to try it.
- Woodie is getting quotes for fuel oil for the coming winter. We typically use about 1200 gallons.
- Treasurer's report indicates that after netting out capital improvements, our cash flow is positive.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.



From Forward Through the Years:

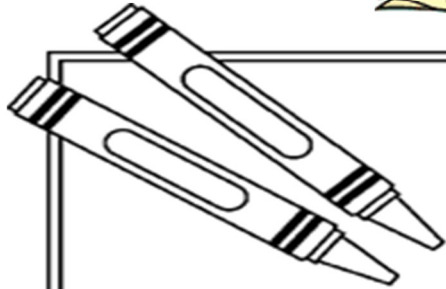
Psalm 145:17. *You open wide your hand and satisfy the needs of every living creature.*

Do you say grace before meals in your family?

The use of a grace is at once an act of thanksgiving and an act of humility. The grace reminds us that God is the Giver and that we are dependent upon God for life itself. The use of a grace can also serve to bring peace and quietness to restless children and tired parents. There are a number of familiar graces that members of the family may learn and use. Here is one by poet Richard Euringer that I have just discovered and like particularly for its biblical allusions and its poetry: O Thou who clothest the lilies, And feedest the birds of the sky, Who leadest the lambs to the pasture, And the hart to the waterside, Who hast multiplied the loaves and fishes, And converted water into wine; Do Thou come to our table As Guest and Giver to dine.

The Sermon on the Mount, Psalms 23 and 42, the feeding of the five thousand, the marriage feast in Cana, and the Lord's Supper are all suggested in this gracious blessing. It helps us to remember that Jesus still comes to nourish and strengthen us with his most holy presence.---1953

# JUST FOR KIDS



## Just for KIDS

### Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

*In Luke 11 Jesus taught his disciples to pray:*

“Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.”

In the puzzle below, find and circle the words from the prayer above. (Note: If a word is in the prayer more than one time, it is used only once in the puzzle.) → ↓

G	K	A	G	A	I	N	S	T	D	T	O
I	U	F	O	R	D	F	A	T	H	E	R
V	D	A	Y	E	A	C	H	S	T	W	W
E	A	I	B	E	N	L	S	C	E	G	S
H	I	O	R	E	S	E	Y	O	M	H	F
O	L	U	K	V	I	A	O	M	P	A	O
U	Y	S	I	E	N	D	U	E	T	L	R
R	B	N	N	R	S	N	R	A	A	L	G
W	R	O	G	Y	S	A	A	L	T	O	I
H	E	T	D	O	B	M	N	S	I	W	V
O	A	W	O	N	O	E	D	O	O	E	E
F	D	E	M	E	I	N	T	O	N	D	B

**The Final Word**

*What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works?* James 2:14

The Epistle lessons for September continue with selections from James and we would be wise to heed his advice. The quoted verse is an excellent summary of what James says. As the saying goes, talk is cheap. Fr. Ralph Groskoph, in one of his sermons, alluded to that there are those who go to church on Sunday and then go home and put their Christianity on the shelf for the remainder of the week. This is exactly what James warns against. He goes on to say in Chapter 3, "Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom." Good advice, indeed! Another behavior that James addresses in this month's Epistle lessons is our judging of people who may be different from us. As written in *The Message* by Eugene H. Peterson, "If a man enters your church wearing an expensive suit, and a street person wearing rags comes in right after him, and you say to the man in the suit, 'Sit here, sir; this is the best seat in the house!' and either ignore the street person or say, 'Better sit here in the back row,' haven't you segregated God's children and proved that you are judges who can't be trusted? Does this happen at St. Ann's? Let's pray that it does not and will not. James also has much to say about the power of the tongue, that is, the words that come out of our mouths. As he puts it, "With it [our tongue] we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. Let us pray for God's grace to help us use our tongue in ways that will honor Him. Finally from James, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." More good advice! 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

