

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



December! Advent! Christmas!

What an exciting (and exhausting) month it can be...

The holiday season brings out many different emotions and many different stresses.

If nothing else, and all too often ignored, this really is the season to do your best to remain spiritually grounded.

In November I took the time to introduce the Diocese's Visioning statement. If you missed it and need an introduction, or if you need a reminder, or if you want to begin to dig even deeper into it, you can find more information on the Diocese's website: cnyepiscopal.org/cny-way-of-love

Our work as a diocese in reflecting and working together to articulate our diocesan way of love is directly related to our Presiding Bishop's call to work together in determining how we can "grow more deeply with Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, so we can bear witness to his way of love in and for the world".

There is a veritable treasure-trove of resources available on the Episcopal Church's website to help us work individually and together to do just that.

www.episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove

Now, as I said when I introduced the Visioning statement, this isn't meant to be some sort of time-limited task to produce a document that will quickly become some sort of wallpaper. No. Developing the Visioning statement is all about the Spirit-led, Jesus-centered process of conversation, action, conversation, action... It's a process. But, when we engage in this process, we find it's not some tedious process of just spinning our wheels. It's an energizing process of deepening our faith and our sense of community. It's an energizing process because it taps into the Holy Spirit dwelling within us and strengthens us through that Spirit. It's a process in which we will learn to love more deeply, and we will be a part of the love of Christ which will heal this world. Amen. And blessings to you all!

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 1	HC	T.Tallmadge	T.Tallmadge	RF	CC	A.Cimini/T.Tallmadge
Dec 8	MP	C.Cimini	C.Cimini	AC	----	D.Vail
Dec 15	HC	T.Tallmadge	T.Tallmadge	TV	DW	T.Tallmadge/B.Vail
Dec 22	MP	J.Rettberg	J.Rettberg	BV	----	A.Cimini
Dec 24	HC	Christmas Story by	Various Readers	-----	TT	B.Vail/A.Vail
Dec 29	MP	D.Vail	D.Vail	DV	----	D.Vail
Jan 5	HC	B.Vail	B.Vail	BV	JR	B.Vail/T.Tallmadge
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Dec 1	J.Rettberg					
Dec 8	R.Felldin	T.Tallmadge	B.Vail	12/9		B.Vail/T.Tallmadge
Dec 15	K.Vail			12/11		M.Kelly/J.Rettberg
Dec 22	B.Vail	D.Wieber				
Dec 29 - NO CH SC		B.Vail	J.Rettberg			
Lectionary (Year C)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalms	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Dec 1		Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalms 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44	
Dec 8		Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12	
Dec 15		Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalms 146:4-9	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11	
Dec 22		Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25	
Dec 24		Christmas Readings				
Dec 29		Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalms 147 or 147:13-21	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-18	
Jan 5		Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalms 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 Tracey Tallmadge 343-1301. 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 December 2019

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
Robert
Jeannette
Cole
Carolyn
Jennifer
Rhiannon
St. Stephens Church

Fr. David Hanselman		
Fr. Steven White		
Deacon Kay		
Pastor Becky		
Rev. Elizabeth Gillett		
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	Bill
Joyce	Dakota	
Mya	Nate	
Holly	Marion	
Cindy	Amaya	
Lois	Chuck	
Clifford	Rachel	
Richard	Hailey	

Special Prayers For Those in Need



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, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.



Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

12/5 Dave & Nancy Setford



St. Ann's Vestry Synopsis November 2019

- Voted to send November outreach of \$200 to The Afton Community Chest and the Christmas offering plus the December outreach to the General Theological Seminary.
- Still waiting for parking lot estimates.
- Christmas Eve service will start at 4:30 p.m. and will be the traditional candlelight service of lessons and carols. At this time, we will not present a Christmas play, subject to change. Our Christmas party Sunday will be December 15th in the Parish Hall. It is rumored that Santa may make an appearance.
- Ron Sherman has offered to service the furnaces. Christmas gifts were approved for three individuals.
- Discussed this year's Christmas project. It was decided to pass on the Angel Tree and to support the Afton School by contributing t-shirts to the high school. Shirts will need to be brought into the church by December 15th and should be solid colors, medium, large and X-large.
- Deacon Kaye will be presenting a program on opioids at the December 15th service, in lieu of the sermon.
- The stewardship program for next year is going well. It is not too late to turn in your "intention" card. St. Ann's will provide 8 pies for the community thanksgiving service. Treasurer's report was presented showing all bills current. The 2020 budget was presented.



A special thank you!
To Bobbi and Gary Zurn for their generous underwriting of the cleaning and waxing of the Parish Hall floors.
They look beautiful.



If you are interested in purchasing a Poinsettia for Christmas Eve in memory of a loved one, please contact Betty Vail, 639-1201, no later than December 18th.

Our annual Christmas celebration/party will be held after the service on December 15th. Families are asked to bring a dozen cookies to share during coffee hour. Any cookies left over will be given to AA for their Sunday evening meeting. It is also rumored that Santa Claus will make an appearance during coffee hour. Thank you very much.

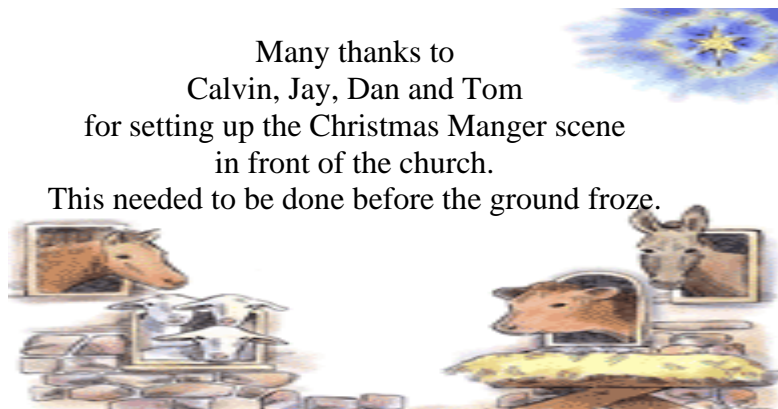


St. Ann's Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held on Tuesday, December 24th at 4:30 p.m. with Lessons and Carols. It is hoped that everyone will be able to join us for this special service as we celebrate the birth of Christ.



Many thanks to
Calvin, Jay, Dan and Tom
for setting up the Christmas Manger scene
in front of the church.

This needed to be done before the ground froze.





Our Christmas outreach this year will be T-shirts for the Afton Middle and High School boys.

They need sizes Medium, Large and X-Large shirts.

Plain shirts (no writing on them) and any color.

One example would be like Hanes or Fruit of Loom package.

Or whatever you wish to provide.

Please bring them no later than December 15th to church
as they will be delivered to the Health office some time that week.

Thank you very much.



Marion Diehl is now residing at Vestal Park in Vestal, NY. Her address is:
Vestal Park Nursing Facility and Rehabilitation Facility
105 Sheedy Road
Room D 110,
Vestal, NY, 13850
607-205-1700

She will be delighted to hear from her friends at St. Ann's.

As many of you know, Marion has served St. Ann's tirelessly for many years,
particularly as a member of the Vestry.

Many, many thanks Marion, for your dedicated service over to this parish.



A big thank you to everyone who supported the Mission of Miracles, UTO and pledging
financial support for St. Ann's. Your generosity is awesome.



A report on the stewardship effort

As of November 22, 2019, St. Ann's has received "intention" cards or just "intentions," for the financial support of the parish totaling \$31,669.00. This is ahead of last year at this time. If you have not returned your card, it is not too late.

Please put the card in the envelope that was provided and put it in the offering plate or mail to St. Ann's Church, P. O. Box 22, Afton, N. Y. 13730.

Also, please note that offering envelopes are available on top of the mail slots in the Parish Hall. If you take a set, please put down your name and the number of the envelopes on the legal pad provided.

The Lord loves a cheerful giver.

Thank you to all for your support of our Parish!!!

A little boy was asked in Sunday school what he was going to give his sister for Christmas. "I don't know," he said. "What did you give her last year?" the teacher asked. "Chicken pox," he replied.

PUZZLE

Symbols of the *Season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.

shepherd's staff _ □ □ _ _ _ □

tree that keeps its leaves _ _ _ _ □ _ _ _

shines to lead the way _ _ _ □

green for eternal life,
red for Jesus' blood □ _ _ _ & _ _ _ □ □ _ _

sounds to announce
good news □ _ _ _

has no beginning or end _ _ _ _ □ _

Th □ □ ks b □ to □ od fo □ □ is
indesc □ □ ba □ le gif □ !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath; Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV

The Final Word

Thankfulness: *“He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan “* **Luke 17:16**

“Jesus healed all ten lepers, but only one returned to thank him. It is possible to receive God’s great gifts with an ungrateful spirit—nine of the lepers did so. Only one thankful leper, however, learned that his faith had played a role in his healing, and only grateful Christians grow in understanding of God’s grace. God does not demand that we thank him, but he is pleased when we do so, and he uses our spirit of thankfulness to teach us more about his Kingdom.” NLT - GZ

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

