

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



First order of business: Someone asked if I could find a way to remind folks of the books I occasionally mention in my sermons. I thought including them in the monthly newsletters would be good. I hope it is.

Within the last few weeks, I've mentioned a few books. One was our own Prayer Book. I referenced the beautiful service – Reconciliation of a Penitent, p 447. In a sermon concerning Mary's Magnificat, I referenced Elizabeth Johnson's *Truly Our Sister: A Theology of Mary in the Communion of*

Saints. The last book I recall mentioning was one I couldn't find (and still haven't – has someone borrowed it?). That book was *Silence* by Diarmaid MacCulloch. By the way, our Lenten program (Wed nights at St Ann's, Thursday nights at Zion) will be a video series about the history of the Christian Church by Prof MacCulloch.

In the space remaining, I'd just like to elaborate on something I said in my sermon for 3 Epiphany. In it, I shone a spotlight on the historical fact of Christian violence in seeking to "purify the faith" throughout the centuries. It's completely true, but I regret that at the time, in order to make my point, I had to present only that side of the history of the Church. There have also been very positive impacts on people's lives because of the Church. Basically, in thinking over the history of the Christian church, it should be abundantly clear that it's always been populated by imperfect human beings. Which is to say, people just like us – earnest, but definitely imperfect, believers seeking to know and fulfill God's will for us. In other words, basically decent people, who sometimes for various and sundry reasons do bad things – and in large groups, those things can be exponentially worse. But from time to time we can also do very good things. Still, in seeking to love God we sometimes get the notion that we have to hurt people in the process. But the Church has also done some amazing things – the very notion of hospitals, universal education, banks, and many other things we now take for granted had their origins or development in great part because of the Christian Church.

We do some good things. We do some bad things. We can't always know which is which, but together we can seek God's forgiveness and grace so that somehow, regardless of our imperfections, God's will may be done on earth just as it is in heaven. Amen.

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 |
| Feb 3 | HC | C.Cimini | A.Cimini | AC | CC | A.Cimini/Tracey |
| Feb 10 | MP | R.Felldin | T.Vail | RF | --- | D.Vail |
| Feb 17 | HC | J.Rettberg | D.Wieber | TV | DW | A.Cimini/Tracey |
| Feb 24 | MP | C.Cimini | A.Cimini | AC | --- | A.Cimini |
| Mar 3 | HC | C.Cimini | A.Cimini | AC | CC | A.Cimini/Tracey |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Church School | | Morning Prayer | | Food Pantry | | |
| Feb 3 | R.Felldin | Feb 3 | D.Wieber | Feb 11 | T.Tallmadge J.Seacat | |
| Feb 10 | J.Rettberg | Feb 10 | Robin & Tracey | Feb 13 | R.Felldin J. Rettberg | |
| Feb 17 | T.Vail | | | | | |
| Feb 24 | K.Vail | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Lectionary (Year A) | | | | | | |
| Date | Service | OT Reading | Psalms | Epistle Reading | Gospel Reading | |
| Feb 3 | HC | Jeremiah 1:4-10 | Psalms 71:1-6 | 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 | Luke 4:21-30 | |
| Feb 10 | MP | Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) | Psalms 138 | 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | Luke 5:1-11 | |
| Feb 17 | HC | Jeremiah 17:5-10 | Psalms 1 | 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 | Luke 6: 17-26 | |
| Feb 24 | MP | Genesis 45:3-11, 15 | Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40 | 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 | Luke 6:27-38 | |
| Mar 3 | HC | Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 | Psalms 32 | Romans 5:12-19 | Matthew 4:1-11 | |

Altar Duty for the month of February is Tracey Tallmadge, 343-1301. 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 service bulletin.

St. Ann's Prayer List for February 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
Marion
Bill
John
Pat
Chuck
Charlie
Lucian
Lisa
Tina
Doris
Cindy
Jeanne
Art
Pat
Jim
Jason
Riley
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
Rev. Elizabeth Gillett
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



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 eep. 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.*



God is Eternal?

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2

Is it really possible that God existed forever—as the verse says, “from everlasting to everlasting” – without a beginning?

Some atheists see what they consider to be a fatal inconsistency here. They don’t understand how Christians can say that God, the Creator, could be “uncaused.” For instance, atheist George Smith asks, “If *everything* must have a cause, how did god become exempt?” In *The Necessity of Atheism*, David Brooks says, “If everything must have a cause, then the First Cause must be caused and therefore: Who made God? To say that this First Cause always existed is to deny the basic assumption of this ‘theory.’”

“That just misses the point,” says philosopher and theologian Dr. William Lane Craig. “I don’t know of any reputable philosopher who would say everything has a cause.” More than that, it’s an argument against a statement nobody is making. Rather, the so-called *kalam* cosmological argument for God’s existence states that *whatever begins to exist* has a cause, not “everything that exists has a cause.” The universe began to exist, and therefore the universe has a cause.

By definition, as the First Cause, God is uncaused. He never *began* to exist, but has always been in existence. “This is not special pleading in the case of God,” says Craig. He points out that atheists used to maintain—until scientific evidence contradicted them—that the universe is eternal and therefore doesn’t need a cause. “How can they possibly maintain that the universe can be eternal and uncaused, yet God cannot be timeless and uncaused?” he asks.

Others have also pointed out that regardless of what you believe, you’re really left with two choices: *either something has always existed, or something popped into existence from nothing.*

Now I don’t believe that things pop into existence from nothing (and hope that you don’t either)—so we’re left with the idea that something has always existed. Theologian J. Oliver Buswell summed it up well: “Since we must believe that something is eternal, unless something comes from nothing, we shall find that the most reasonable belief in an eternal being is belief in the eternal God.”

So even though it stretches our puny minds—which should not be a shock to us—it does make sense logically that God has eternally existed. More than that, he tells us this is true in his revelation, the Bible. *God has always existed, and he’ll always be here. Don’t you think he can handle the problems you’re wrestling with today? He can—if you bring them to him in faith.*

From: *The Case for Christ*, by Lee Strobel.





2/2 Tom Vail

2/7 Marion Diehl

2/18 Carol Tarvin

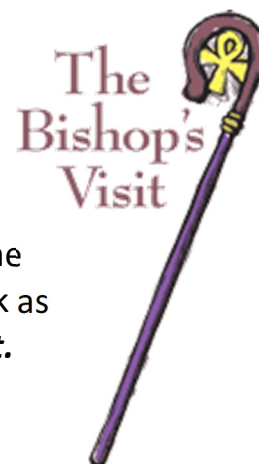


Please email cttallmadg@aol.com to be added to our birthday/anniversary list.



BISHOP VISITATION:

On Sunday, March 17th, Bishop De-De will be visiting St. Ann's. It is hoped that everyone will welcome her as she is an inspiring speaker that captures your attention. She is also a very down to earth person and a lot of fun to visit with. One of her out-of-the-office passions is riding her motorcycle. There will be plenty of time for everyone to visit with her and if you have questions, please ask as they are important to her. ***Please mark your calendars and join St. Ann's for this special time with Bishop De-De.***



PUZZLE

God's Love

We can't measure God's love for us. It starts before we're born and continues for eternity.

Directions: Down the left-hand column, spell out the name of each number. Then write the circled letters on the blank lines in the right-hand column. Read the words on the right, from top to bottom, to see what Psalm 33:22 (NIV) says about God's love.

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| 20 _____ | "Ma _____ |
| 4 _____ | y _____ |
| 99 _____ | u _ f a _ l _ _ g |
| 7 _____ | l o _ _ _ |
| 1 _____ | b _ _ _ |
| 28 _____ | _____ h |
| 60 _____ | u _ _ |
| 40 _____ | L _ _ _ d, |
| 70 _____ | _____ |
| 6 _____ | a _ _ |
| 12 _____ | _____ |
| 64 _____ | p _ _ t |
| 14 _____ | _____ |
| 81 _____ | _____ p _ _ |
| 9 _____ | _____ |
| 24 _____ | _____ ." |

PSALM 33:22, NIV

PUZZLE

ON THEIR HEARTS

God made a special promise about a relationship he wants to have with people who love him.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the crossword, using the word bank below. Then use the numbers to write the words in the heart, completing God's promise.

WORD BANK:
covenant God hearts laws
minds people their them will write

"This is the 1) _____ ... I 2) _____
put my 3) _____ in 4) _____ 5) _____ and
6) _____ 7) _____ on 4) _____ 8) _____
I 2) _____ be 4) _____ 9) _____,
and they 2) _____ be my
10) _____."

HEBREWS 8:10, NIV

Twenty "May
Four your
Ninety-nine unfailing
Seven love
One be
Twenty-eight with
Sixty-four put
Twelve we
Six as
Seventy even
Forty Lord,
Sixty us,
Fourteen our
Eighty-one hope
Nine in
Twenty-four you."

Answer: "This is the covenant ... I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."
Hebrews 8:10, NIV



Send an Invisible Valentine to Someone You Love!

Here's what you'll need:

- Scissors
- White construction paper
- White crayon
- Pen
- Pink or red watercolor

Here's how to make an invisible Valentine:

1. Cut a heart shape out of the white construction paper.



2. Use the white crayon to decorate the heart with designs and a message. Press hard!
3. On the back, use the pen to write: "Brush the other side with pink or red watercolor to find a secret message."



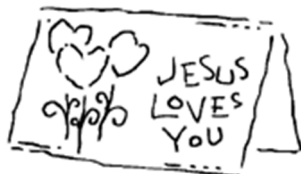
4. Give the valentine to someone you love. When the person paints the "blank" side, your secret message will be revealed!



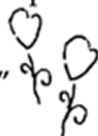
Make tray favors for a local hospital, nursing home, nutrition project or home-delivered meal program.

You will need for each:

- white, unlined index cards (4"x6")
- red & pink construction paper
- markers — green, black
- glue or glue stick



- ♥ Fold card in half
- ♥ Cut 3 hearts from colored paper. Make them about 1 inch high.
- ♥ Glue the hearts on the left side, overlap a little.
- ♥ Use marker to make "stems" from the hearts — they'll look like a bouquet of flowers.
- ♥ On the right side print a message or a verse, such as "Jesus Loves You."



Make Some Magnets

You will need:

- ♦ a tube of refrigerated breadstick dough
- ♦ a cookie sheet
- ♦ an oven
- ♦ acrylic paints
- ♦ paint brushes
- ♦ glue
- ♦ small magnets



How to make:

Stretch out the dough. Shape pieces into letters or shapes. Spell "LOVE" or make heart shapes for Valentine's Day. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet at 300° for 30 minutes. Cool. Paint. Glue magnet on back.



There is value in a good vocabulary. In my retirement, I called an old friend and asked what he was doing these days.

He replied that he was working on "Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum and steel under a constrained environment."

I was impressed. Upon further inquiry, however, I learned that he was washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision.

— via George Goldtrap
Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL



"If God is watching us, the least we can do is be entertaining."

— Author unknown
via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
Dover, DE





The Final Word

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful and endures through every circumstance.”

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

This excerpt from the Epistle for Epiphany 4 is taken from a portion of 1 Corinthians referred to as “The Love Chapter” and it is often used in wedding services. Nine times out of ten when people say “love,” they mean something else. They might be expressing the highly emotional state of “falling in love,” which sees love simply as an overwhelming feeling. They might be confusing love with the selfish physical desire of lust. But they seldom have in mind the kind of selfless courageous and forgiving love Paul describes in these timeless words. A good way to check your own understanding of love is to substitute your own name for the word “love” and reread the above passage. If you are like me, it will show you how your understanding and practice of love need to grow. 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

