

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.stannsafttonny.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: Tracey Tallmadge: 343-1301 Daniel Vail: 240-9264



Blessed and Happy New Year!

Does anyone still make New Year's resolutions?

Years ago, I had a good friend and it was his family tradition to make New Year's predictions. It was a fun game they played and every now and then one of the predictions would turn out to be fascinatingly accurate. But, they never had the consistent accuracy required to become full-fledged "prophets".

Still, as every new year approaches, many people, me and my family included, do start making plans for the upcoming year. We look ahead and try to agree on certain priorities, vacations and whatnot.

This year, as New Year's Day approached, the lectionary for the Daily Office provided for a reading that speaks directly to this common activity of planning for the year ahead. The Daily Office readings are well-thought out and so I'm confident it's not simply a matter of coincidence that the reading just prior to New Year's comes from the Letter of James, Chapter 4.

Edited down to show more clearly what our faith says about planning ahead; the perspective our faith provides us with, we read:

"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money.' Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring... Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that.'... The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near... As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed, we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful."

We have our hopes. We make our plans. We do the work that is given to us to do. And our faith keeps reminding us that all of our lives should be lived with the knowledge and confidence that God is always near whether our plans work out as we hope or not. May you know God's presence and love in all your undertakings this year!

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
Jan 5	HC	T.Vail	T.Vail	DV	JR	B.Vail/T.Tallmadge
Jan 12	MP	D.Wieber	D.Wieber	BV	-----	A.Cimini
Jan 19	HC	C.Cimini	C.Cimini	AC	DW	B.Vail
Jan 26	MP	A.Wieber	A.Wieber	MH	-----	D.Vail
Feb. 2	HC	B.Vail	B.Vail	TV	BV	T.Tallmadge/B.Vail
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Jan 5 –	R.Felldin					
Jan 12	B.Vail	C.Cimini	A.Cimini	Jan 13	B.Vail/T.Tallmadge	
Jan 19 – No CS				Jan 15	M.Kelly/J.Rettberg	
Jan 26	K.Vail	D.Wieber	M.Harding			
Lectionary (Year C)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Jan 5		Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7,10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12	
Jan 12		Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17	
Jan 19		Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-12	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42	
Jan 26		Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 5-13	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23	
Feb 2		Malachi 3:1-4	Malachi 3:1-4	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40	



Altar Duty for the month of January is Melrose Kelly, 639-1090 and Carol Cimini, 693-2907. 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 January 2020

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
Kathy
James

Long Term

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



St. Ann's Vestry Synopsis
December 2019

No meeting due to Holiday Party

VESTRY will meet January 19th, 2020



Report on Stewardship

The generous response to St. Ann's annual stewardship letter is most appreciated by your Vestry.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, our financial needs for the coming year are covered enabling your vestry to meet the budgeted expenses. It is always a pleasure to work with an optimistic group of people as opposed to a pessimistic group of people. Everyone deserves a "pat on the Back" and a hearty thank you for your support of our Parish.

Offering envelopes are available in the Parish Hall by the mail slots. If you take one, please write down your name and the envelope number beside it.



Church Terms: EPIPHANY – Greek, “to show forth.” This season begins on January 6 and commemorates the showing forth of the Infant Jesus to the Wise Men, the first Gentiles to worship Him. Depending on the date of Easter, there may be as many as six Sundays or as few as one in the Epiphany Season.



Can we celebrate Christmas after the day by heeding the baby's teachings?

There is no doubt, Christmas has become a national secular holiday. The frantic shopping, Santa Claus, reindeer and Christmas trees have nothing to do with the Christmas story about a baby born in a manger 2,000 years ago.

The Christian story, often lost in the frenzy, is a quiet story about a couple (who later become refugees fleeing for their lives) being welcomed in a new city just in time to give birth to a son. This baby becomes a man whose words and deeds can save us from ourselves—fears, our anger, our anxieties, our loneliness. He teaches us that feeding the poor, healing the sick, welcoming the stranger, treating our neighbor as we would like to be treated, and loving God’s creation is the way to peace within ourselves and peace on earth.

We all have this primitive reptilian brain that repeats all the evils in the world and sees them as immediate threats: the fear of the other who looks, dresses or worships differently, says things we don’t understand or agree with; the dreams that never materialized; lost loves, lost homes and lost traditions; family members who no longer talk to us; mental and physical health issues; and most of all, the loneliness that these thoughts can produce in a world frantically moving but going nowhere. These thought patterns often manifest themselves in anger, arrogance and isolation, which perpetuate closed-mindedness, conflict and divisiveness.

But the beauty of the Christian (and Christmas) story is that there is a way to slow these thought patterns, not just by buying gifts, but by reaching out to others less fortunate by listening to the stories of the “other,” by welcoming strangers in the land and by going for a walk in the woods and becoming aware of the great gift of creation and then doing what we can to protect it.

In the Christian story, this baby born in a manger grew to be a man who ate and drank with people from other cultures and religions, who turned the tables on those taking advantage of the poor, who fed and healed the multitudes. This man never carried a sword, never made money and never rode in an expensive chariot. So take some time to reflect on what you have and what you can give and discover the peace that surpasses our understanding. Merry Christmas!!



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, or the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."



JANUARY Birthdays

4 Briella Harding
13 Peter Vail
15 Tyler Wright
20 Ron Sherman
27 Cindy Sherman



A BIG thank you to Robin Felldin for the Advent calendars she gave to each of the church school children. And also, for the Christmas gifts that she gave to each child. Her thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Many thanks to everyone who brought in cookies for our Christmas party coffee hour. A very large variety of cookies that were delicious. The extra cookies were left for AA, for their Sunday evening meeting.

Many thanks to Amedeo Cimini for being Santa Claus during our Christmas party. The kids were most excited, and everyone had a great time.



Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world. — Desmond Tutu



A man sent his friend a cryptic Christmas card. It said: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ. The recipient puzzled over it for weeks, finally gave up and wrote asking for an explanation. In July he received the explanation on a post card: "No L."

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Morning Prayer

"The Light of God surrounds me.
"The Love of God enfolds me.
"The Power of God protects me.
"The Presence of God watches over me.
"Where I am, God is."

— James Dillet Freeman
via Apple Seeds

A bishop invited to preach at an Anglican church joined the rector's family for Sunday dinner after church. The rector's small daughter said, "A person must be very brave to go to church these days." "Why do you say that?" the bishop asked. "Because," the child said, "I heard Papa tell Mama there was a big shot in the pulpit, the canon was in the vestry, the choir murdered the anthem, and the organist drowned everybody." — Cambridge (England) Daily News

A young girl was asked to play the devil tempting Jesus in the wilderness in a church play. She refused, suggesting that the pastor ask her little brother instead. "He'd make a great devil!" she said.

After an election in which he had retained his seat in Parliament, a reporter asked Winston Churchill, "I presume we may expect you to continue to be subservient to the powerful interests that control your vote." Churchill replied: "I'll thank you to keep my wife out of this." — via Rev. Bernard Brunsting Stuart, FL

The Final Word

Worship: “They entered the house where the child and his mother, Mary, were, and fell down before him and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”
Matthew 2:11

“The astrologers traveled thousands of miles to see the king of the Jews. When they finally found him, they responded with joy, worship, and gifts. How different from the approach we often take today. We expect God to come looking for us, explain himself, prove who he is, and give us gifts. Those who are wise still seek Jesus because they suspect that he is unlike any person, sent for a special purpose. Do you really know who he is? How important is it to you to discover him for yourself?” NLT - GZ

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P. O. Box 22
Afton, New York 13730

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Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Wardens: Daniel Vail
 Tracey Tallmadge

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

