

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: Dan Vail: 607-240-9264 Tracey Tallmadge: 607-343-1301



I remember it well. Just before the Mother's Day Zoom prayer service began, the thought popped into my head – we're making the Internet sacred!

Ok, maybe I'm overstating it or putting it too simply and I should probably take a step back to explain. One of the more interesting lessons I learned in seminary was what the word "sacred" means. Basically, it just means "set apart for a special purpose". Things like cruets, vestments, patens and chalices and other

things are pretty clear examples of things made sacred by setting them apart for special purposes.

But in that moment before our Mother's Day service began, it occurred to me that we've been setting apart some very different things than we usually do just for the special purpose of continuing to worship together. One important thing that has stayed pretty much the same is the setting aside of a particular time for the special purpose of worshipping together. But we're also setting apart so many other things – laptops, desktops, phones, iPad, etc... And let's not forget the Wi-Fi and Internet connections! These are all being "set aside for a special purpose".

When I got to talking to some of my colleagues about this, it turns out they noticed the same thing. In fact, Fr Steve White told me how he asked his folks why they've chosen the places they've chosen as the place in which they're praying. Now, you don't necessarily need to have any sort of special reason for choosing the place you've chosen to share in our prayer time together, but I'm pretty sure some of you do have special reasons for doing so. Certain places can become sacred by our setting them aside for special purposes. And I invite you to share what the place you've chosen means to you.

But another colleague, Pastor Becky Drebert reflected on how sometimes when we focus attention on sacred things, we can reflexively assume other things are "profane". Becky offered the important reminder that God has made all things and when God saw all the things that God had made, God said they were "very good". So please, don't get caught up in the dichotomy of sacred/profane; rather simply take a moment to notice the new things that are being made sacred. And give thanks. Blessings to you all!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

The SERVICE SCHEDULE is not available due to the COVID-19 and absence of parishioners in May to fill it in. Once regular services begin again, Lay Readers in attendance will be asked to read the lessons for that particular Sunday. The readings for each Sunday in May are listed below. Please take the time to read the lessons and Gospel for each Sunday.

The corona virus is causing more than its share of problems but it hasn't stopped us from having a Sunday worship service. Holding a service via the "zoom" software is a little strange but seems to be working okay. On April 19th. we added some "Holy Humor" to the service which is always fun. According to the parish newsletter from St. David's church in DeWitt, God and Satan were talking and Satan bragged that he had effectively shut down all churches. God's reply was: "Now every home has been made a Church."

If you haven't tried tuning in for a "zoom" service, why not try it next Sunday. Everyone who has their E-mail address on file should be receiving a forward of Fr. David's instruction letter for each service. If you have not been receiving that letter, please advise Tom Vail of your E-mail address and you will be added to the parish listing. Bettom415@aol.com

Yes, the "zoom" service is different, but change is what life is all about. Services are also available through the Diocese via their website.

Service Schedule						
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Lectionary (Year C)						
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
June 7		Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalm 8 or Canticle 13	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20	
June 14		Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)	Psalm 116:1, 10-17	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)	
June 21		Genesis 21:8-21	Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39	
June 28		Genesis 22:1-14	Psalm 13	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42	
July 5		Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Psalm 45: 11-18	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	



Altar Duty for the month of June is Betty Vail 639-1201. 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 June 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
Jennifer
Rhannon
Kathy
James
Jody
Thomas
Burdette
Barbara Harris

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 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 Dakota
Mya Nate
Holly Marion
Cindy Amaya
Clifford Rachel
Richard 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 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

*6/01 Mya Boston
6/09 Stephanie Proffitt
6/22 Mike DeBetta*

Anniversaries

6/23 Alan & Jane Seacat

Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary. Call 607-343-1301 or email cttallmadg@aol.com

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have our annual June Picnic at Kellystone.



Outreach for February

The February outreach was originally designated to go to the Episcopal Relief and Development for tornado relief in Nashville, TN. The original check that was sent to the Episcopal Relief and Development was returned with a note that they were not able to use the funds for the purpose we requested. A call to the Cathedral in Nashville was not returned. In researching the Episcopal Churches in Nashville, there are three churches in addition to the Cathedral. Interestingly, one of the churches in Nashville is: St. Ann's Episcopal Church. A call to them resulted in a call back from The Rev. Kira Austin-Young who agreed to accept our contribution and see that it was used to help someone who had suffered tornado damage. The following note was received from Rev. Austin-Young:

"To the Clergy, people and vestry of St. Ann's,"

Thank you for your gift towards tornado recovery here in Nashville. Fortunately, our campus only suffered a downed tree, but others in the neighborhood were not so lucky. Your gift will go to good use, especially in these perilous times. You all have given me continued faith in our bond in Christ!
Peace and blessings, Rev. Kira Austin-Young.

The parking lot paving project was completed, two coats of stone and oil. It looks good.

NOTICE: If you have not tried Fr. David's Sunday morning "Zoom" service, please give it a try. You should be receiving an e mail each week giving the password to sign on for the service. If you are not receiving that communication and would like to, please call the clerk at: 639-1201.

Also, remember that the expenses of the church continue, even though we are not having services at the church building. Please send your pledge checks to: P. O. Box 22, Afton, New York 13730.

Food for Thought

My grandmother used to say, "Words are easy to spill and hard to clean up." Just like spilled coffee, gossip, slander, and thoughtless words scatter and spread everywhere, and they are very hard, even impossible, to clean up.

Humor for Hard Times

I stepped on my scale this morning. It said: "Please practice social distancing. Only one person at a time on scale."

Not to brag, but I haven't been late to anything in over 6 weeks.

The spread of Covid-19 is based on two things:

1. How dense the population is?
2. How dense the population is?

Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money.

People keep asking: "Is the coronavirus REALLY all that serious?" Listen y'all, the churches and casinos are closed. When heaven and hell agree on the same thing it's probably pretty serious.

The dumbest thing I've ever bought was a 2020 planner....

Appropriate analogy: "The curve is flattening so we can start lifting restrictions now" = "the parachute has slowed our rate of descent, so we can take it off now."

CHURCH TERMS: PENTECOST (which was May 31, 2020) Greek, “fiftieth.” Also called Whitsunday, Pentecost is the fiftieth day after Easter, the seventh Sunday. It is observed in commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in the form of cloven tongues of fire. Peter was the preacher on that day and three thousand were baptized. Liturgical color: red.

PETER, THE APOSTLE – The author of two epistles that bear his name. According to legend, Peter was crucified on the same day that Paul was beheaded in Rome under the persecutions of Nero. They are therefore commemorated together on June 29. Liturgical color: red.



St. Ann's Vestry Synopsis

The vestry meeting was held in a “zoom” format, a first for St. Ann's.

1. **Outreach:** Voted to send the May outreach funds to the Afton United Methodist Church for use in their meal program.
2. The Good Friday and Easter offerings were designated to be divided evenly between The Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Berkley Episcopal Seminary. Due to there being no “church” services for those two days, with a corresponding decrease in offerings, it was decided to add the May outreach amount of \$300 to the offering funds earmarked to those organizations.
3. It is expected that the parking lot “stone and oil” project will be completed in the next month.
4. The format of this year's Diocesan Convention has not been decided at this time.
5. St. Ann's “Exceptional Student” scholarship for an Afton School senior has been approved and the usual letter sent to the High School Office.
6. The annual picnic at Kellystone Campsites has had to be cancelled, due to the pandemic.
7. The Bishop is working on reopening guidelines and they will be communicated to all parishes as soon as they are finalized.
8. A supply of new Prayer Books has been received. **NOTE: They are available, at no cost, to anyone who would like one for home devotions and services. Please call the clerk at: 639-1201 and we will make arrangements to get the book to you.**
9. The “Forward Day by Day” booklets are also available, at no cost, to anyone who would like one. Call the above number.
10. **Financial:** Report was distributed electronically to vestry members. All bills are current, and we are solvent. Thanks be to God. The report was accepted. It was noted that payment has been

received from the Diocese for the Chenango Trust Fund. Fr. David gave a brief explanation of how that trust was originally established.

Father's Day reflections

Father's Day has come and gone many times over the years, but these reflections from the Joyful Noiseletter are worth reading:

"Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, story-tellers, singers of songs."

Pam Brown

"My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived and let me watch him do it."

Clarence Buddington-Kelland

"No man can possibly know what life means, what the world means, until he has a child and loves it. And then the whole universe changes and nothing will ever again seem exactly as it seemed before."

Lafcadio Hearn

"I've learned that simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult. I've learned that having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world."

Andy Rooney

A father's prayer

*Heavenly father make me a better parent.
Teach me to understand my children, to listen
Patiently to what they have to say,
And to answer all their questions kindly.
Keep me from interrupting them or contradicting them.
Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.
Bless me with the bigness to grant them all their reasonable requests,
And the courage to deny them privileges that I know will do them harm.
Make me fair and just and kind, and fit me, O Lord, to be loved and respected
And imitated by my children. Amen*



Happy Father's Day to ALL ~~~~~June 21,2020

The Final Word

Adversity: Jonah 2:2 – *“He said , “I cried out to the Lord in my great trouble, and he answered me, I called to you from the world of the dead, and LORD, you heard me!”*

God listens to every prayer we offer and responds to every one, sometimes saying no, sometimes saying yes, sometimes saying wait. From the belly of the big fish in the depths of the sea, Jonah cried out, and God heard. No place is too remote for God. God listens and he cares. NLT-GEZ

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Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

