

## 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: Currently Supply Priests

If you desire a visit from a priest or give you a call, please contact one of the wardens below.

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

### *The Power of God's Love*

*People will oppress each other – man against man, neighbor against neighbor. The young will rise up against the old, the base against the honorable.*

*Isaiah 3:5*

*In today's world it seems as if chaos and anarchy rule in every corner. However, this doesn't mean we need to tolerate the situation. In Christ Jesus, God came to fight against evil. He did this with the only weapon effective enough to overcome the forces of darkness. And it is just as powerful today – godly love.*

*God continues to spread His love over His children, and it is the Christian's privilege and duty to share this love with others.*

*There is no other way of stopping the tide of evil that is threatening society today then to try to become a channel of God's love.*

*Holy God, make me an ambassador of Your love, sharing it with everyone I meet. Amen*



### *Prayer for the selection of a Rector*

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on your church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## APRIL SERVICE SCHEDULE \ SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

If you are not currently receiving email Zoom invites, then please send your email address and you will be added to the parish listing. [Bettom415@aol.com](mailto:Bettom415@aol.com), Yes, the “zoom” service is different, but change is what life is all about.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Acolytes	
Apr 7	MP	<a href="#">Amedeo Cimini</a>	A. Cimini	B. Vail	
Apr 14	MP	<a href="#">Tracey Tallmadge</a>	Tracey Tallmadge	B. Vail	
Apr 21	HC	No Church Service. Bishop Visit at Oxford			
Apr 28	MP	<a href="#">Carol Cimini</a>	Carol Cimini	B. Vail	
May 5	MP	<a href="#">Carol Tarvin</a>	Carol Tarvin	B. Vail	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
April 7	MP	<a href="#">Genesis 1:1-5</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 29</a>	<a href="#">Acts 19:1-7</a>	<a href="#">Mark 1:4-11</a>
Apr 14	MP	<a href="#">Acts 3:12-19</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 4</a>	<a href="#">1 John 3:1-7</a>	<a href="#">Luke 24:36b-48</a>
Apr 21	HC	<a href="#">Acts 4:5-12</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 23</a>	<a href="#">1 John 3:16-24</a>	<a href="#">John 10:11-18</a>
Apr 28	MP	<a href="#">Acts 8:26-40</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 22:24-30</a>	<a href="#">1 John 4:7-21</a>	<a href="#">John 15:1-8</a>
May 5	MP	<a href="#">Acts 10:44-48</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 98</a>	<a href="#">1 John 5:1-6</a>	<a href="#">John 15:9-17</a>
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

### MORNING PRAYER LEADERS:

Apr 7: Carol Cimini  
 Apr 14: Denise Wieber  
 Apr 21: No Church Service Bishop visit at Oxford or Greene  
 Apr 28: Tracey Tallmadge  
 May 5: Denise Wieber

**ALTAR GUILD for the month of April – Betty Vail 607-639-1201. If you desire to have flowers placed on the Altar in memory of a loved one, please contact her one week in advance.**

There will be NO Vestry meeting on April 21st. The bishop is making a visit either at St. Paul's, Oxford or Zion, Greene. At the time of printing the newsletter, we do not have complete information. A separate e-mail will be sent to all Parishioners as to the time and where the visitation will take place.

St. Ann's Prayer List for **APRIL 2024**

It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. 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. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. We would like to be sure that this prayer list is updated as changes occur and don't want to remove someone that should be on it. Please send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 607-639-1201. Please note that long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names will typically be left on the listing for 3 or 4 months or perhaps longer.

Short Term		Long Term			
Dorothy	Judy	Carol	Cindy	Fr. David Hanselman	St. Paul's Church
MaryAnn		Mya	David	Fr. Steven White	St. Andrews's Church
Bill		Holly	Terra	Pastor Becky	St. Ann's Church
Cheryl		Bonnie	Arthur	Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Peter's Church
Mado Roger		Bobbi	Jason	The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	Zion Church St. Matthew's Church
Barbara (2)		Bishop Michael Curry	Kim	Search for Rector Bishop Michael Curry	Message Ministries
Caroline Edward				The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph	The General Theological Seminary
				Emanuel Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
				Epiphany Church	

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins – Carol Vail and Bonnie MacPherson



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 Episcopal Church  
Vestry Hi-lites  
March and April 2024

1. Outreach was selected for March and April as there will not be a vestry meeting in April, due to the bishop's visitation. March was split 50/50 between Blessings in a backpack in Greene and Dottie's Kitchen in Chenango Forks. April's outreach was sent to Mercy House in Endicott.
2. An update of the status of the rector search was given. The final Parochial Report was approved.
3. Membership in the Afton Chamber of Commerce was approved. A thank you letter from the Binghamton Humane Society was read. St. Ann's yearly scholarship to an "exceptional student" was discussed. It was agreed to continue this scholarship and decide in May how much we will increase it. Need delegates for Diocesan Convention. Dan and Betty volunteered. Carol volunteered as an alternate. The planned Bishop's visit for April 21<sup>st</sup>. was discussed and it was approved to share the cost of catering the luncheon with Zion and St. Paul's. There was discussion on security for the Church, during services. Cameras will be investigated, and signs put up showing that the facility was under electronic surveillance. Dan reported on the status of the audit.
4. The financial report was reviewed along with copies of checks for the months of January and February.
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**CHURCH TERMS: MARK, THE EVANGELIST** – John Mark, one of the four companions of Peter and Paul on their missionary journeys. According to tradition, he was the founder of the Christian Church in Alexandria, Egypt, and was martyred there. He is the writer of “The Gospel according to Saint Mark” in which he presents Christ as the King. His symbol is the winged lion, the king of the beasts, in accordance with his presentation of the royal character of Christ. He is commemorated on April 25.  
Liturgical color: **RED**

**Birthdays**  
4/9 Jane Seacat  
4/25 Maxwell Harding & Kerri Vail



**Anniversaries**  
4/23 Mado & Carol Cimini  
Denise & Amy Weiber

Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary [cttallmadg@aol.com](mailto:cttallmadg@aol.com) or 607-343-1301

## ***Decisions, Decisions***

*For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:6 NKV*

We make countless decisions: decisions about the things we do, decisions about the words we speak, and decisions about the thoughts we entertain. Simply put, the quality of those choices determines the quality of our lives. As you consider ways that decision making impacts your own life, take time to consider how many things in this life you can control: your thoughts, your words, your priorities, and your actions, for starters. Then, if you sincerely want to improve the quality of your life, learn to make the kind of choices that will enhance your life today, tomorrow, and in years to come.

To a large extent, your decisions will determine your future—so choose wisely. The location of your affections will drive the direction of your decisions. (Lisa Bevere)

## **The Master is There**

There was once an old man who had no family and lived by himself. All his older brothers and sisters and his only few friends had passed away. He was very sad and lonely. He didn't believe the Good News that God so loved him that He gave His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for his sins, and that by believing in Jesus as his Savior, he would live with Jesus forever, never sad, and never alone.

One day this man became very sick. He really thought he was going to die soon, so he asked his doctor to come to his house. The doctor tried to help him as much as he could but knew that the old man's life was going to end soon.

The doctor got up from where the man was sitting and walked toward the door. The old man said to the doctor, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what is on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

The old man said, "You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?" The doctor was holding the handle of the door. From the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog, his dog, sprang into the room and leaped on the doctor, tail wagging in happiness.

Turning to the old man, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing. I know my Master is there and that is enough for me."

## **The First Sermon**

The First sermon preached each Sunday is not by the priest, but by us:

We preach a message of good cheer when we say "Good Morning" to those you meet as you are parking, or in the halls or Parish Hall.

We preach a message of welcome when we slide over in the pew instead of forcing others to squeeze in front of you.

We preach a message of hope and joy when we sing the hymns and service music.

We preach a message about the power of prayer when you help a visitor find his place in the Prayer Book.

We preach a message of love when we smile and say "hello" and introduce ourselves to a visitor before the service or during the passing of the peace.

We preach a message about the importance of the scriptures when we listen carefully to the day's texts.

Many messages are preached before the priest or service leader stands to share the sermon. If our message is positive, faithful and consistent, then the message from the pulpit will be more effective.

**Come to church next Sunday and every Sunday, prepared to preach our best sermon. And by the way, when was the last time that we asked a friend or neighbor to attend church with us? If we are supported by what our faith has done for us, it is our responsibility to share that faith with others.**

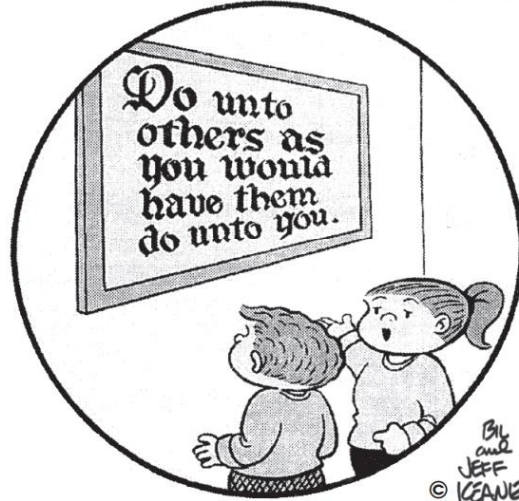
**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil and Jeff Keane



"Mommy, if somebody sneezes on you, do you hafta 'God bless' them?"

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**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil and Jeff Keane



"It's a sayin' given to us by the Golden Ruler."

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# Abe Lincoln's sanity saved by his humor

**A**s a role model for keeping your sense of humor in life's rough spots, no one beats Abraham Lincoln, a man of faith. In both his personal and his political life, Lincoln faced huge problems. He was President during the worse years this country has ever seen, as 750,000 Americans were slaughtered by other Americans during the Civil War.

"Lincoln's family life was also a recipe for sadness. His wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, suffered frequent migraine headaches, depression, and physical illnesses. Her hot temper and mood swings often made her hard to live with.

The Lincoln's son, Eddie, died of tuberculosis at age three, and another son, Willie, died of typhoid fever at age 11.

"What saved Lincoln from despair amid all this tragedy was his sense of humor, especially his love of funny stories. At cabinet meetings during the Civil War, he regularly picked up a humorous book and read passages aloud.

"When his cabinet officers objected, he said, 'Gentlemen, why don't you laugh? With the fearful strain that is upon me night and day, if I did not laugh I should die, and you need this medicine as much as I do.'

"Stories and humor were nearly as important to Lincoln as oxygen and water. What saved Abraham Lincoln from despair amid all this tragedy was his sense of humor, especially his love of funny stories."

– via. Prof. John Morreall  
in his book *Lincoln – Laughing all the Way*

## The Final Word



**SELFISHNESS: 1 John 3:17 1. But if anyone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need and refuses to help -- how can God's love be in that person?**

**The selfishness cannot coexist with the love of God. Selfishness inhibits, or even prohibits, God's love or becoming real in our lives and the lives of those who we encounter. This passage suggests that one cure for a selfish heart is giving money to meet a financial need when it presents itself. Given your situation and what you know about the needs of people around you, how might you express God's love this week?**

NLT-GEZ



**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:** Currently Supply Priests  
Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

