

Sharing God's Love in Our Community Through Prayer, Study and Action

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY
(Member of the Broome/Chenango District)

The Parish News

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 Betty Vail 607-639-1201

**Search for the LORD and for His strength. Seek His face always.
WITH GOD'S STRENGTH**

Psalm 105:4 HCSB

As you continually seek God's purpose for your life, you will undoubtedly experience your fair share of disappointments, detours, false starts, and failures. When you do, don't become discouraged; God's not finished with you yet.

The saying is as true today as it was when it was first spoken: "Life is a marathon, not a sprint." That's why wise life travelers select a traveling companion who never tires and never falters. That partner is your heavenly Father.

Are you tired? Ask God for strength. Are you discouraged? Believe in His promises. Do you feel defeated? Pray for the ultimate victory that is sure to come. Have faith that you are destined to play an important role in God's great plan for humankind—because you do.

*We ought to make some progress, however little, every day,
and show some increase of fervor. We ought to act as if we were at
war—as, indeed, we are—and never relax until we have won the
victory.*
Saint Teresa of Avila

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.



If you desire communion more than once or twice a month, Rev. Geoff Doolittle conducts Holy Eucharist at Zion Greene on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday nights at 5:00 p.m. He conducts Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's in Oxford the 2nd and 4th Saturday nights at 5:00 p.m.

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. Bottom415@aol.com, Yes, the “zoom” service is different, but change is what life is all about.

Service Schedule					
Date	Service	Leader	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	Acolytes
Dec 7	MP	Betty Vail	Betty Vail	Betty Vail	B. Vail
Dec 14	MP	Denise Wieber	Amy Wieber	Amy Wieber	B. Vail
Dec 21	MP	Tracey Tallmadge	Terra Botzki	Terra Botzki	B. Vail
Dec 24	HC	Readings and Carols	Readings and Carols	Readings and Carols	B. Vail
Dec 28	MP	Betty Vail	Betty Vail	Betty Vail	B. Vail
Jan 4	ZOOM SERVICES BEGIN				
Date	Service	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Dec 7	MP	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Dec 14	MP	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146:4-9	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
Dec 21	MP	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18	Matthew 1:18-25	Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 24	HC				
Dec 28	MP	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 147 or 147:13-21	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-18
Jan 4	ZOOM	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 84 or 84:1-8	Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a	Matthew 2:13-15,19-23
Jan 11	ZOOM	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
Jan 18	ZOOM	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-12	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Jan 25	ZOOM	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 5-13	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
Feb 1	ZOOM	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

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

Dates to remember

The Christmas Eve service with Lessons and Carols will begin at 2:45 p.m. on December 24th at St. Ann's with the Rev. Geoffrey Doolittle conducting Holy Eucharist. The service is early due to Rev. Doolittle serving two other parishes later in the afternoon and early evening. We at St. Ann's wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

St. Ann's will continue with Sunday morning Zoom services beginning at 9:15a.m. on January 4th. Please join us if you are able.

St. Ann's Prayer List *for Dec2025*

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 we do not 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 remain 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			
Melrose					St. Paul's Church
Richard		Mya		Fr. Steven White	St. Andrews's Church
Gary		Holly		Pastor Becky	St. Ann's Church
Dorothy		Bonnie		Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Peter's Church
		Bobbi		The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	Zion Church St. Matthew's Church
Joanne		Jason		Bishop Sean Rowe	Message Ministries
		Cindy		The Rev. Liz Groskoph	The General Theological Seminary
Marge		David		Emanuel Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
Steve		Arthur		Epiphany Church	Berkley Divinity School



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:

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins – Melrose Kelly, Bonnie Macpherson, Toni Weller, and Bobbi Zurn

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 meeting hi-lites

VESTRY will meet at St. Ann's on December 21st.

St. Ann's outreach for Christmas are mittens and hats which will go to the Department of Social Services for foster children.

Stewardship

If you plan to support St. Ann's financially and have not turned in your "intention" card, there is still time. Please return it in the envelope provided or put it into the offering basket on Sunday morning. Thank you for your financial support of St. Ann's.

Also, there is still time to contribute to the fall ingathering of the UTO, United Thank Offering, an outreach of the Episcopal Church that supports people and projects in this country and around the world. Typically, St. Ann's has rounded up the UTO ingathering's to the nearest \$100. Please consider supporting this project.



CHURCH TERMS: IMMORTALITY - The belief that the soul lives on after the death of the body. This is confessed in the Apostles Creed as “the Life everlasting,” and in the Nicene Creed as “the Life of the world to come.”

The search for a Priest for St. Ann's, Zion and St. Paul's is still active.

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

DECEMBER

Birthdays

12/01 Lexi Cutmore
12/08 Woody Robbins
12/16 Sandy Proffitt
12/20 Dan Vail

Anniversary

12/05 Dave & Nancy Setford
12/17 Bobbi and Gary Zurn

Christmas Without Anglicans? (Episcopalians)

One of the things I like most about the Christmas season is the music. It only occurred to me recently that so many Christmas carols came to us from Anglicans. Even our popular image of jolly old St. Nick was shaped by a professor of biblical studies at (of all places) an Episcopal seminary.

“Twas the Night Before Christmas” is a poem published anonymously in 1823 and generally attributed to Clement Clarke Moore, a professor of classics at Columbia and lay Professor of Hebrew and Bible at the General Theological Seminary in New York. (built on land he donated.) The poem, which has been called “arguably the best-known verses ever written by an American,” is largely responsible for the conception of Santa Claus from the mid-nineteenth century to today.

And what about the carols? The text of the popular “O little town of Bethlehem” was written by Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal priest, long-time Rector of Trinity Church in Boston, and later Bishop of Massachusetts. He was inspired by visiting Bethlehem in 1865. At Christmas, 1868, he asked his organist, Lewis Redner, to write music for the poem he had written. Redner’s tune, titled “St. Louis,” is the one most often used.

John Mason Neale, an Anglican priest, scholar, and hymn-writer, translated many ancient hymns, including the Christmas classic, “Of the Father’s love begotten.” He was also responsible for much of the translation of the Advent hymn “O come, O come, Emmanuel,” based on the “Great O Antiphons” for the week preceding Christmas. Neal’s most enduring and widely-known legacy is probably his own original Christmas contributions, most notably “Good Christian men, rejoice” and his Boxing Day carol, “Good King Wenceslas.”

The Anglican priest Charles Wesley penned the classic “Hark! The herald angels sing.” The original words were reworked by his friend and fellow priest George Whitfield into the verses familiar to us today. The “Father of English Hymnody” Isaac Watts, a nonconformist minister in the Church of England, wrote the famous carol “Joy to the world!” Anglican bishop Christopher Wordsworth penned the famous carol, “Sing, O sing, this blessed morn.”

Christina Rossetti was an English poet and a devout Anglo-Catholic. Two of her poems, “In the bleak midwinter” and “Love came down at Christmas,” became popular Christmas carols. Cecil Alexander, wife of a bishop in the Church of England, wrote the hymn “Once in royal David’s city.” Nahum Tate, the son of a priest and England’s poet laureate, wrote the hymn “While shepherds watched their flocks by night.” At the age of twenty-nine, English writer and Anglican layman William Chatterton Dix was struck with a sudden near-fatal illness and confined to bed rest for several months. While his illness resulted in a deep depression, out of his traumatic experience, he wrote the lovely carol, “What Child is this?”

Yes, what would Christmas be like without Anglicans?

The Rev. Timothy Matkin, SSC, Commanche, Texas

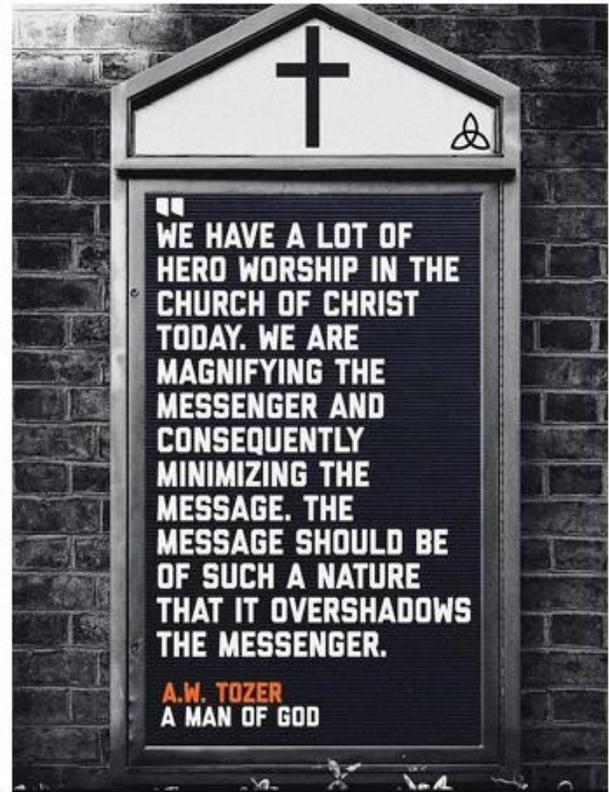
Thirteen Lessons

Dr. Erwin Lutzer, 84, pastor emeritus of Moody Bible Church in Illinois, after 2000 sermons, began sharing 13 lessons he has learned, most recently at the Cove in Asheville, NC, last month, which I attended:

1. The call of God is necessary for the ministry of God.
2. A call without character is disastrous
3. Your friends may turn out to be your enemies.
4. Sometimes a pastor has to walk away from a church for the good of the congregation.
5. God often blesses people who disagree with us.

Are you as funny
as a third-grader?

- What did the horse say after it tripped?
Help! I've fallen and I can't giddy-up!
- Why can't you hear a pterodactyl going to the bathroom? *Because the "P" is silent.*
- What do you call a well-balanced horse?
Stable.
- What do you call an angry carrot?
A steamed veggie.
- Where do polar bears keep their money?
In a snowbank.
- How do you make an egg roll?
You push it!
- Why did the bicycle fall over?
Because it was two tired.
- Why was Cinderella so bad at soccer?
She kept running away from the ball!



6. It is easier to hire than to fire.
7. Those who fail in one church might succeed in another.
8. Comparison can steal your joy.
9. People listen with their hearts, not just their heads o minds.
10. Preach to interpret the future through the lens of scripture, not the other way around,
11. The devil will let you have your theology as long as he can have your heart.
12. Get legal advice, put up firewalls before th legal advice is needed.
13. People will not remember how you came, but they will remember how you left.

The Final Word 

[See article on Christmas above](#)

St. Ann's Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 22
Afton, New York 13730

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COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER. STUDY
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Clergy: Currently Supply Priests
Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

