

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

MAKING TIME for GOD

"First pay attention to me and then relax.
Now you can take it easy, you're in good hands."

Proverbs 1:33

Daily life is a tapestry of habits, and no habit is more important to your spiritual health than the discipline of daily prayer and devotion to God. When you begin each day with your head bowed and your heart lifted, you'll be reminded of the Creator's love and of His laws. If you find that you're simply too busy for a daily chat with your heavenly Father, it's an indicator that you probably need to take a long, hard look at your values and how you're spending your time.

If you've acquired the unfortunate habit of trying to squeeze God into the corners of your life, reshuffle the items on your to-do list and put God first. He wants your undivided attention, not the leftovers of your day. From (or renew) the habit of spending quality time with your Creator. He'll make it worth your while.

God calls us to see Him daily to serve Him daily.

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
Oct 5	MP	D.Wieber	S. Botzki	S. Botzki	T. Botzki
Oct 12	MP	B.Vail	J. Rettberg	J. Rettberg	B.Vail
Oct 19	RSC	C.Cimini	T. Tallmadge	T. Tallmadge	T. Tallmadge
Oct 26	MP	C.Cimini	C.Cimini	C.Cimini	B.Vail
Nov 2	MP	B. Vail	S. Botzki	S. Botzki	T. Botzki
Nov 9	MP	B. Vail	B. Vail	B.Vail	T. Botzki
Nov 16	RSC	D. Wieber	T. Botzki	T. Botzki	B. Vail
Nov 23	MP	D. Wieber	A. Wieber	A. Wieber	B. Vail
Nov 30	MP	T. Tallmadge	S. Botzki	S. Botzki	B. Vail
Dec 7	MP	B. Vail	B. Vail	B. Vail	B. Vail
Date	Service	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Oct 5	MP	Lamentations 1:1-6	Psalm 137	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
Oct 12	MP	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7	Psalm 66:1-11	2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19
Oct 19	RSC	Jeremiah 31:27-34	Psalm 119:97-104	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8
Oct 26	MP	Joel 2:23-32	Psalm 65	2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18	Luke 18:9-14
Nov 2	MP	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4	Psalm 119:137-144	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12	Luke 19:1-10
Nov 9	MP	Haggai 1:15b-2:9	Psalm 145:1-5, 18-22	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27-38
Nov 16	RSC	Isaiah 65:17-25	Canticle 9	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19
Nov 23	MP	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Canticle 16	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43
Nov 30	MP	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
Dec 7	MP	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

RSC: RESERVED SACRAMENT COMMUNION

Oct. 19 C. Cimini - Leader
 T. Tallmadge - Reader (Readings & Psalm)
 2 people - Intercessor (Prayers of People)
 J. Rettberg & T. Tallmadge - Distributors

RSC: RESERVED SACRAMENT COMMUNION

Nov. 16 - D. Wieber – Leader
 T. Botzki - Reader (Readings & Psalm)
 2 people - Intercessor (Prayers of People)
 J. Rettberg & B.Vail - Distributors

ALTAR GUILD for the following months are:

October is Judy Rettberg, 607-208-4023

November is Carol Cimini, 607-693-2907

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:

Stewardship Sunday will be November 2nd. Fall UTO Sunday will be November 9th.

St. Ann's Prayer List for Oct/Nov 2025

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				Fr. David Hanselman 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
Norm		Bobbi		The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe Zion Church St. Matthew's Church
Joanne		Jason		Bishop Sean Rowe Message Ministries
Jeannette		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 – 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 Hi-lites 9/25/25

- 1. Convention delegates are Denise Wieber and Betty Vail.**
- 2. Outreach for September was discussed and approved giving to "Save the Children." With this contribution, we have supported 21 non-profit charitable organizations so far in 2025.**
- 3. We expect the toilets in parish hall to be replaced this fall.**
- 4. Interchurch council meeting is Sept. 28th. Anyone may attend.**
- 5. The Methodist Church is on schedule to host the interchurch council Thanksgiving service, however, due to the impending closing of that church, a different host church may be needed. St. Ann's will volunteer the use of our facilities for this service.**
- 6. The yearly audit required by the diocese has been completed and submitted. Thank you to Judy Rettberg, Carol Tarvin and Tom Vail.**
- 7. Our Annual Meeting will be October 5.**
- 8. We need an insurance administrator. Mado Cimini has volunteered to do this.**
- 9. Afton Food Pantry is having difficulty meeting their financial needs. We have sent a donation this past month and vestry asked to consider what level of support we could provide on a regular basis.**

- 10. Approved the replacement of the dehumidifier in the sacristy as current unit has died.**
- 11. Stewardship Sunday approved for November 2nd.**
- 12. Fall UTO approved for November 9th.**
- 13. Ron Sherman thanked him for his donation of lawn care for this year.**
- 14. January and February services will be held on Zoom, Zion and St. Paul's to be invited to participate.**
- 15. Financial report and July and August bank statements and check copies reviewed with no anomalies noted.**

Church, What a Concept!!

You may have recently heard a news article about the Pope visiting the European Union {EU} Parliament asking its leaders to never forget where they came from. The EU came together as a willing family of nations to establish joint structure, collaborate, inspire, and work together toward the common good. However, as the Pontiff said, “The great ideas that once inspired Europe seem to have lost their attraction, only to be replaced by the bureaucratic technicalities of its institutions.” He asked the EU to worry less about the rules and regulations and more on the people, on their needs, their struggles, and most of all, their hopes.

We're all somewhat guilty of that, aren't we? Focusing on the rules we have to follow, rather than the purpose of the regulation. I've heard people say, “Well I didn't lie! I just didn't offer the information when they asked.” What? Talk about forgetting the spirit of the law and instead focusing on obeying the letter of the law.

You know the word church actually comes from the Greek word, ekklesa, which means “an assembly” or “called out ones.” We should “greet the church that is in their house.” Romans 16:5

Scripture refers to the church as being a “body of people,” not a physical structure or building. The term family is not typically used because we typically think of families in a rigid way by blood or social grouping, not of willing participants who come together based on kindness, love and compassion. That's what a church is supposed to be – a family of willing participants coming together in hope for inspiration, with kindness and a willingness to forgive, and to collaborate on overcoming our struggles. The struggles we have individually and as a group.

The Pope is asking European leaders to do nothing less than he has tried to do within the organization called the Catholic Church, to worry less about the rules and regulations and focus more on the people—the people who are the church. Now don't misunderstand, you need

guidelines, best practices, and standards to achieve but you also need a heart to go with the head if you expect to have a functioning body.

Church is not meant to be a concept, not a building. It is not a group of rules or regulations, but a group of people who come together for a collaborative purpose. A way of life that is focused on happiness and peace of mind, love and forgiveness, and being who we are all meant to be. Church, what a concept! A concept we can live by always focusing on God's people.

Rev. Richard A Washburn, chaplain



CHURCH TERMS: Wheat and Tares – The wheat represents the good crop, the faithful, and the tares are the weeds, he wicked. Both will live side by side until the day of judgment. Matthew 13:24-30

The search for a Priest for St. Ann's, Zion and St. Paul's is still active, but there has been no response currently.



Birthday

Anniversary

10/22 Carol Cimini

10/6 Calvin Tracey Tallmadge



Birthday

Anniversary

11/6 Robin Felldin

11/15 Ron Cindy Sherman

11/24 Al Pat Tucker

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

"I"-Liners

I've always wondered if songbirds get mad at hummingbirds for not knowing the words.

My neighbor suggested I put cow manure on my strawberries. Tried it. I'm going back to whipped cream.

To make a long story short, I became an editor.

I went to the paint store to get thinner. It didn't work.

My wife told me to put ketchup on my shopping list. Now I can't read anything.

My neighbor couldn't afford his water bill, so I got him a get well soon card.

My therapist said I have trouble expressing emotion. Can't say I'm surprised.

I didn't realize how bad my driving was until my GPS said, "In 400 feet do a slight right, stop, and let me out!"

I'm not saying that my wife orders a lot from Amazon; I'm just saying that if I got a job as an Amazon driver they'd probably let me work from home.

I've always wondered why lemonade is made from artificial flavors but furniture polish is made from real lemons.

I was addicted to the hokey-pokey, but I turned myself around.

My wife said I never listen to her, or something like that.

The Lord's Laughter

"The One whose throne is in heaven sits laughing."
Psalm 2:4

A woman went to her lawyer.
"I want to divorce my husband."
"On what grounds?" The lawyer asked.

"Grounds? We have a few acres, will that impact the settlement?" she responded.

"I meant on what foundation?" the lawyer asked.

"I think it's made of concrete and brick."

"Please," the lawyer raised his voice. "Just tell me, why do you want a divorce?"

"You don't have to yell," she said. "The answer is simple. We just can't communicate."



Sherwin walked into his office to find a rookie painter wearing two parkas on a hot, summer day.

"Why are you wearing those? It must be 80 degrees in here," he said.

"Well, I read the paint can; it said, 'for best results, put on two coats.'"



The speaker asked his audience to raise their hand if they had been bitten by an elephant.

No one raised a hand.

Then he asked who had been bitten by a mosquito.

Everyone raised a hand.

"That should show you; it's the little things that will get you!"

**JoyfulNoiseletter.com*

Faith-Fillers

If you rearrange the letters in depression, you'll get "I Pressed On." Your current situation is not your final destination.

The Apostle Paul entered heaven to the cheers of those he martyred. That's how the gospel works.

Healing takes time. There is a reason the Lord waited 22 years to reunite Joseph and his brothers.

No amount of regret changes the past.

No amount of anxiety changes the future.

But any amount of gratitude changes the present.

If you think you've blown God's plan for your life, rest in this. You, my friend, are not that powerful.

A father was explaining to his son the significance of controlling words and actions.

"Throw a plate onto the floor."

The boy did.

"Did it break?" the father asked.

"Yes," said the boy.

"Now, say sorry to it."

"Sorry," said the boy.

"Did it go back to the way it was before?" asked the father.

"No.

"So, Son, do you understand?"

The Final Word



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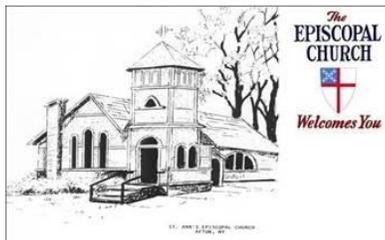


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St. Ann's Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 22
Afton, New York 13730

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR
COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER. STUDY
AND ACTION**

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



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