

**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 Betty Vail: 607-639-1201



*God’s Limitless Love for You*

**The Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of Lords, the great God, mighty and awesome.**

Deuteronomy 10:17 NIV

Because God’s power is limitless, it is far beyond the comprehension of mortal minds. Yet even though we cannot fully understand the heart of God, we can be open to His love.

God’s ability to love is not constrained by temporal boundaries or by earthly limitations. The love that flows from the heart of God is infinite—and today presents yet another opportunity to celebrate that love.

You are a glorious creation, a unique individual, a beautiful example of God’s handiwork. God’s love for you is limitless. Accept that love, acknowledge it, and share it with others. You can make the world a better place just by being you.

*The greatness of His power to create and design and form and mold and make and build and arrange defies the limits of our imagination. And since He created everything, there is nothing beyond His power to fix or mend or heal or restore.*

Anne Graham Lotz



**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.**

**JANUARY / FEBRUARY 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. [Bottom415@aol.com](mailto:Bottom415@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	
Jan. 4	ZOOM	See below	See below	N/A	
Jan 11	ZOOM	See below	See below	N/A	
Jan 18	ZOOM	See below	See below	N/A	
Jan 25	ZOOM	See below	See below	N/A	
Feb 1	ZOOM	See below	See below	N/A	
Feb 8	ZOOM	See below	See below	N/A	
Feb 15	ZOOM	See below	See below	N/A	
Feb 22	ZOOM	See below	See below	N/A	
Mar 1	ZOOM	See below	See below	N/A	
READINGS BELOW					
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Jan. 4	ZOOM	<a href="#">Jeremiah 31:7-14</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 84 or 84:1-8</a>	<a href="#">Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 2:13-15,19-23</a>
Jan 11	ZOOM	<a href="#">Isaiah 42:1-9</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 29</a>	<a href="#">Acts 10:34-43</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 3:13-17</a>
Jan 18	ZOOM	<a href="#">Isaiah 49:1-7</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 40:1-12</a>	<a href="#">1 Corinthians 1:1-9</a>	<a href="#">John 1:29-42</a>
Jan 25	ZOOM	<a href="#">Isaiah 9:1-4</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 27:1, 5-13</a>	<a href="#">1 Corinthians 1:10-18</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 4:12-23</a>
Feb 1	ZOOM	<a href="#">Micah 6:1-8</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 15</a>	<a href="#">1 Corinthians 1:18-31</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 5:1-12</a>
Feb 8	ZOOM	<a href="#">Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 112:1-9, (10)</a>	<a href="#">1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 5:13-20</a>
Feb 15	ZOOM	<a href="#">Exodus 24:12-18</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 2</a>	<a href="#">2 Peter 1:16-21</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 17:1-9</a>
Feb 22	ZOOM	<a href="#">Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 32</a>	<a href="#">Romans 5:12-19</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 4:1-11</a>
Mar 1	ZOOM	<a href="#">Genesis 12:1-4a</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 121</a>	<a href="#">Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</a>	<a href="#">John 3:1-17</a>
If you are looking at the above on a computer device, then each reading is a link directly to the reading.					

**LEADER**

Jan 4 Daniel Vail  
 Jan 11 Amedeo Cimini  
 Jan 18 Tom Vail  
 Jan 25 Tracey Tallmadge  
 Feb 1 Betty Vail  
 Feb 8 Denise Wieber  
 Feb 15 Carol Cimini  
 Feb 22 Carol Cimini  
 Mar 1 Tracey Tallmadge

**READER**

Betty Vail  
 Carol Cimini  
 Annette Patten  
 Terra Botzki  
 Amedeo Cimini  
 Nancy Setford  
 Stephan Botzki  
 Annette Patten  
 Tom Vail



There will be no Altar Duty assignments due to Zoom services during January and February."

**St. Ann's Prayer List for Jan/Feb 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 we 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			
Melrose	Joe	Mya	Holly	Fr. Steven White	St. Paul's Church
Gary	Cheryl	Bonnie	Bobbi	Pastor Becky	St. Andrews's Church
Dorothy	David	Jason	Cindy	Fr. Geoff Doolittle	St. Ann's Church
		David	Arthur	The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	St. Peter's Church
		Norm	Val	Bishop Sean Rowe	Zion Church
		Joanne	Terry	The Rev. Liz Groskoph	St. Matthew's Church
		Marge	Tyler	Deacon David	Message Ministries
		Steve		Emanuel Church	The General Theological Seminary
				Epiphany Church	The Episcopal Divinity School
				Search for Rector	Berkeley Divinity School

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins –  
**Melrose Kelly, Bonnie MacPherson and Bobbi Zurn**



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 will begin Zoom services during the months of January and February, returning to in-church services on March 8th. These Zoom services will be conducted by a Lay person from St. Ann's and Zion Episcopal in Greene. If you have not tried

Zooming from your home, you might find that it is satisfying to remain at home on a bitter cold, snowy, icy day and partake in a 45-minute live church service. On January 4th, you can join at 9:00 a.m. with the service beginning at 9:15. Click on the link that has been e-mailed to you and try it or go to the website and use the link listed there

**ASH**  
Wednesday

At this time of the newsletter publication, there have been **no arrangements** made for a Priest to conduct an Ash Wednesday service at St. Ann's. This is due to lack of Clergy in our area. If this changes, we will advise.

**"We will not be worshipping in Church for Jan and Feb, but the expenses still go on. Don't forget to keep up your financial support of St. Ann's. Your vestry thanks you."**



## CHURCH TERMS AND SYMBOLS

**ASH WEDNESDAY** - The name is taken from the custom of putting ashes on the forehead on this first day of Lent. The date depends on the date of Easter, before which is the forty sixth day.

**LENT** – A penitential season with special weekly services to commemorate the suffering and death of Jesus. It begins on Ash Wednesday, a movable date, and lasts for forty days until Easter. The fifth week of Lent is called Passion Week, and the sixth, Holy Week. Liturgical color: Violet, except on Good Friday when it is black.

## SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

The Christmas season is a time of sensory bombardment coming in all forms and from all directions. And skillful Christians can use that sensory input to nourish our devotion during this holy time. The special celebrations, music, sights, activities, and foods can all help build a focus on what we are really celebrating, a focus on why these are “tidings of comfort and joy.”

But there is another sort of blessing we can claim during Christmastide and in its companion season of Advent and the days celebrating the Epiphany. It is a blessing of a very different sort.

People often describe prayer as “having a conversation with God.” And there is nothing wrong with that description. The Catechism, in pages 856 and 857 of the Book of Common Prayer, tells about different forms that conversation can take, some of the principal kinds of prayer. That list can help us keep our prayer life balanced, touching all the bases, as it were.

But there is a thing that Christians learn as they mature in their life in Christ: When you spend time with the Lord in prayer, you don’t have to talk all the time. You really don’t. You and God can sit together quietly, like a long-time couple sitting on a porch swing in the evening, just being together and being happy to be together.

Isn’t to say that conversation with God should be avoided. Not at all. But if you find that quiet time with God is a time of peace and refreshment, or just inexpressibly what you need at a certain time, be confident that that quiet is a type of prayer also. And you don’t necessarily lose the kinds of prayer listed in the Catechism; they just shift from being a presentation in words to being the attitude or stance or emotion behind the quiet. And those can shift from one to another, just as they do when you pray using words: your mood can move from penitence to praise to oblation. Even intercession can merge into quiet time, with maybe a brief “O Lord, help those who are suffering,” trailing off into a time of shared closeness with the one to whom you are bringing the world’s woes.

But if you try to get too systematic about things while you’re doing them, you might get lost. Pray in words when that’s what is in your heart and pray in quiet when quiet is what you have to bring to the Beloved. I suppose I do have a sort of bias about these things. I’ve lived in the monastery for over fifty years. And monks and nuns have a tradition of thinking that silence is A Good Thing. But do you? My years of experience have led me to find that quiet prayer is particularly well suited for the really big holy times of the church year, times like Holy Week and Easter, Baptisms, and funerals, and yes, Christmas. Those are times when what’s going on in the gospel story, and in our human history is really too big and too complex and too simple for words. But we can still have a quiet time with the Lord when the realities we face are too much for words. The other thing that the big days can be too much of is too busy. We sometimes have to work hard to squeeze in a little bit of prayer of our own. A few minutes of quiet prayer here and there can be a great resource. The sensory input of the season: the gospel of Jesus’ birth in art and song and celebration is a great, good thing. It’s a spiritual resource not to be wasted. But quiet time with Jesus is a great resource, too. Don’t forget that you have it.

**Fr. William, St. Gregory’s Abbey**

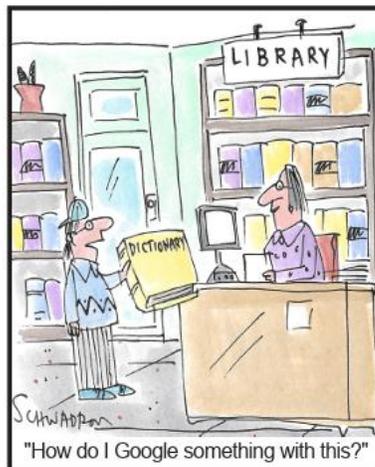
## Vestry Hi Lites

December 21, 2025

1. Outreach: Voted to send ½ of December outreach to Chenango Memorial Hospital Foundation and ½ to "A Room to Heal." January outreach ½ to Danielle House and ½ to GiGi's. February outreach ½ to YMCA and ½ to YWCA.
2. Our fall UTO ingathering was \$165 which the vestry voted to round up to \$200.
3. Fr. Geoff Doolittle will be conducting our Christmas Eve service. It was voted to round his stipend up to the next \$100.
4. Dan reported on the status of the rector search. The priest we had interviewed has accepted a call to another parish. The interview and process up to this point have been a good learning experience. Dan thanked all who have helped with the search process.
5. Agreed to have Denise check into setting up a Facebook account.
6. Financials and check copies were reviewed.



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
©Bob Vojtko  
Reprinted with permission



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
©Harley L. Schwadron  
Reprinted with permission



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
©Dick LaPine  
Reprinted with permission

# Faith-Fillers

I think I've discovered the secret of life – you just hang around until you get used to it.

— Charles Schulz

My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips.

— Psalm 63:5

If the Lord have need of thee, he will know where to find thee.

— Martin Luther

Jesus demanded commitment and specific behavior. In the end, we should take Jesus at his word and realize that following him is more important than understanding him.

— Arthur A. Rifkin

God brought light out of darkness, not out of a lesser light.

— John Donne

## There's no man like snowman:

What did the snowman say to the aggressive carrot?

**"Get out of my face."**

What do you call an old snowman?

**Water.**

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party?

**Freeze a jolly good fellow!**

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

**Ice Krispies.**

What is a snowman temper tantrum called?

**A meltdown.**

## JANUARY Birthdays

- 4 Briella Harding
- 20 Ron Sherman
- 27 Cindy Sherman
- Bonnie MacPherson

## FEBRUARY Birthdays

- 2 Tom Vail
- 18 Carol Tarvin

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



**A Worship Caution**

When ministry becomes performance, then the chancel becomes a stage, the sanctuary becomes a theater, the congregation becomes an audience, worship becomes entertainment and man's applause and approval become the measure of success!

**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

