

The Parish News

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY

<http://www.stannsaftonny.org>

Member of the Chenango District

September 2014

Clergy The Reverend

From Fr. Dave

Fr. David A. Hanselman

761-4601 cell

656-9502 office

Wardens:

-Betty Vail

639-1201

-Tracey Tallmadge

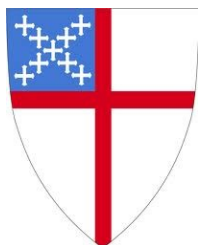
343-1301

In an emergency and Fr. David can't be reached, please contact one of the wardens.



Make a Note

St. Ann's Annual Meeting will be held after the church service on October 5, 2014.



Greetings once again!

Some of you may remember, but last month I promised to say a thing or two about fundamental reality. Of course, there's not much room here so let me get to it.

It's all too easy to find some Christian pastors who deride science. Through recent history, one of the many criticisms that've been leveled against science, and the one I'd like to focus on is the Theory of Relativity. In the simplistic criticism of Relativity it is claimed if "everything is relative" then anything goes and God's absolute commands aren't absolute. And so it is, that many pastors loath the Theory of Relativity.

To make this reasonably short, I have to ignore any connection between Relativity and postmodern theory. If you don't know what I'm talking about, all the better! You see, a fundamental concept used in Relativity (Special Relativity if memory serves me), is a thing called a Frame of Reference. That is, basically, every fact has an associated Frame of Reference. Simply put, for one Frame of Reference, a light may appear to be stationary; whereas for another Frame the light may be moving - as in the difference between an observer on a train, and someone observing the train passing by.

And so it is, that facts are relative - relative to a particular observer's place and time. And this is where folks tend to go wrong - what's crucial about the theory for us, is that the focus is NOT on how truth is relative to any particular observer. What's crucial for us is that the focus is on the relationship between observers.

That is, if religiously-minded folks want to draw some conclusion about fundamental reality based on relativity, it should be that relativity explains the different perceptions of truth by pointing out the relationship between observers. There is always some relationship between observers and it's that relationship which you could say is universal and not merely relative.

That is, rather than bluster and condemn relativity as saying "everything is relative", if we look closer to it we can see that what's being said is that "everything is in relationship". And that, my friends, is precisely what the Trinity is - God in relationship - God in relationship to God's self, and God in relationship to us and all creation. Peace be with you all!

Father Dave ✝

If you desire Father David to visit you or give you a call, please contact him at: (607) 761-4601 or (607) 656-9502.

Service Schedule

	<u>Date</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
HC	Sept 7	C.Cimini	C.Tarvin	AC	CC	A.Cimini/B. Vail
MP	Sept 14	M.Harding	R.Felldin	RF	----	D.Becker
HC	Sept 21	S.Proffitt	P.Tucker	TV	SP	D.Becker/B.Vail
MP	Sept 28	T.Tallmadge	C.Tarvin	AC	----	T.Tallmadge
HC	Oct 5	S.Proffitt	D.Becker	PV	SP	J.Proffitt/B.Vail

Morning Prayer:

Sept. 14 – J.Proffitt/B.Vail

Sept. 28 – Carol & Mado Cimini

Church School:

Sept. 7 – S. Proffitt

Sept. 14 – T.Vail

Sept. 21 – R.Felldin

Sept. 28 – K.Vail

Special Thanks to all who serve

Note to all who serve: It would be most helpful if, when you cannot make your assigned date, you would arrange for a substitute. If you are unable to do that, please notify a warden. Thanks for your cooperation!

Lectionary (Year A)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>OT Reading</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sept 7 13 Pent	Psalm 149	Exodus 12:1-14	Romans 13:8-14	Mathew 18:1-14
Sept 14 14 Pent	Psalm 114	Exodus 18:21-35	Romans 14:1-12	Mathew 18:21-35
Sept 21 15 Pent	Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45	Exodus 16:2-15	Philippians 1:21-30	Mathew 20:1-16
Sept 28 16 Pent	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	Exodus 17:1-7	Philippians 2:1-13	Mathew 21:23-32
Oct 5 17 Pent	Psalm 19	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Philippians 3:4b-14	Mathew 21:33-46

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Duty – Judy Rettberg (607)208-4023. If you wish to purchase or provide flowers for the Altar on a particular Sunday, call Betty Vail (607) 639-1201. If you are giving flowers in memory of a loved one, please notify Pete 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 Brochure

The best way to bring someone to church is a personal invitation. The brochure provides an "icebreaker" when given to a friend or neighbor you ask to come to church with you. Copies are located at the back of the church and in the hallway between the church and the parish hall. Please feel free to take one or as many as you need for this purpose. Please give one to visitors and when you invite someone to come to church with you!

FROM YOUR TREASURER

Summer 2014 is about to become a memory and soon we'll be settled into our Fall/Winter/Spring routines. My sincere thanks to all who kept their financial support up-to-date over the summer. As of the end of August our income continued to exceed disbursements although by only a hundred dollars or so. As temperatures drop, we can expect to be facing large expenditures for heating oil. We need to remain committed in our financial support and vigilant in our spending. By so doing, we will be fulfilling God's call for us to be good stewards of what He has given us.

Vestry Highlights - March 2014

1. There is no vestry meeting for July and August.
2. Vestry met for outreach about a family's mobile home roof that was leaking. Tom and Duane would get the sealer and supervise the installation by a family member.

Annual Meeting

St. Ann's Annual Meeting will be held after the church service on October 5, 2014. The Episcopal Church "canons" (or bylaws) provide for the Annual Meeting at which time reports are presented and vestry positions filled. Even though we are a small Parish, it is important to support your parish by your attendance. The elections and reports are the only business to come before this meeting and it is typically short. Please do your best to attend.

Kudos



THANKS! - Duane and Tom for overseeing the sealing of the mobile home room.

THANKS! - Marissa and Denise for Moring Prayer on August 10th

THANKS! - Sandy and Betty for Moring Prayer on August 24th.

THANKS! - Tracey and Betty for Moring Prayer on August 31



***Note:** If you know of one or more people who we should thank in this column, please pass that information on to Pete Vail or Jody Proffitt. We don't want to miss anyone!*

United Thank Offering (UTO)

The UTO Fall Ingathering will take place in early November. The information below is taken from a letter by the Diocesan UTO Chairperson.

"As usual I must press upon you to inform your parish that the UTO is NOT a fund raiser. We exist mainly for a healthy prayer life. A day consists of 24 hours. That is 1,440 minutes. Can you afford to use one of them for a prayer? Try it!

And when I think of prayer the thought always makes me think of dandelions. I know this sounds strange but to me they are not weeds. Look at a field of them. Look at the bright color. They make me feel happy! And they can be so plentiful. (Yes, I know many people think of them as a nuisance.) But watch them when they go to seed. Watch as hundreds of seeds float in the air. That is what I imagine our prayers look like. I like to think they are beautiful thoughts on their way up to God.

I have an idea for using your blue boxes. Mine is near my kitchen window. But now I also carry one in my car. I try to say a prayer before I drive anywhere, and when I reach my destination. Now I use the box as well. (PCV note: Praying is a great way to use your time at traffic lights and jams!) Just an idea you may want to pass on."

Nancy Rancier

Afton Interchurch Council (AIC)

Afton Food Pantry

- Coordinator Kathy Knudsen

In Need of Prayer

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.

Carol Peter Michele Joyce Pat Mya Holly Cindy Lou Toni Beverly Lois
 Vern Sally Clifford Baby Ethan Baby Callen Ed Hromada Elliott Joe Steve-
 Julia Richard Elizabeth Matt Doug Danny Don Wieber Norma Ryan Susan Insinga-
 Rayne Pike John Pierce Fr. Chuck Taylor Fr. David Hanselman Fr. Bruce MacDuffie-
 Bishop "Skip" Adams Pope Francis The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church
 The vestry of St. Ann's

The following prayer is suggested by Bishop Skip. It 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.

Why church?

The Rev. David Meginniss

Why do we have church? Is it for God's sake? Clearly, the answer is "no." When King David first wanted to build a temple, God reminded him that God never asked for a "house"; God does not need any earthly dwelling. And when Solomon finally built the temple, in his wisdom he acknowledged to God, "The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!" Solomon knew it is not for God's sake, but for humans' sake that we build places of worship. Solomon prayed that God would bless the temple to serve as a place where God's people could pray, ask for help, guidance, or forgiveness, and where they could celebrate their relationship to God. The problem is, most people were not as wise as Solomon. Although they didn't want to admit it, they lived as if they believed God was contained within the temple, and never left it. If they needed God's help, they would come "visit God" at the temple, but the rest of the time they went around as if God couldn't see what they were doing. They liked to point at the temple and say how beautiful it was and how important they were to have God's presence in their midst, but it didn't really affect their day to day lives. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God told the people of Israel that if they didn't shape up, God might just quit listening to their prayers altogether.

These days, we're not limited to a single Temple. We've got churches all over the place. They come in all kinds of flavors, like ice cream. They use different worship styles, different versions of the Bible, different customs, and different forms of church government. But what was true about the temple is true for all of these churches.

First, none exist for God's sake. God is not contained in any of them. We need them because we have trouble focusing. God is all around us and in us and through us, and yet we need sacred spaces where we can help our restless bodies and souls be still in God's presence. We also need a meeting place where we can come together as God's people. No Christian should try to be a Christian in isolation. Jesus gave us the gift of the Church to be his very Body. The building is not the Church, but the building gives the Church a place to meet.

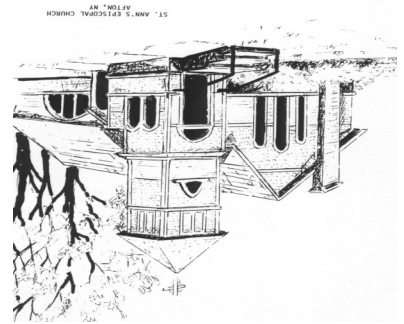
Second, the church building does us absolutely no good if we're not in it. I suspect a lot of folks are proud to have such a beautiful place to call their church home, and that's good, but I also suspect there are some who are proud to say they belong to a particular church because they think it makes them important. That's not so good. Our church building is only meaningful, it is only important, it only has a reason to exist if it strengthens our relationship to God. It needs to affect our lives by giving us the strength, the resources, the energy, the enthusiasm, and the mutual support to go out and serve God in the world. We need to come to church to help us remember that God is with us wherever we are, whatever we're doing. We need to deepen our understanding about God and give each other mutual support and encouragement. We need to meet as a Church, so we can be the Church.

God gave us the Church for our sakes. The least we can do is be grateful enough to use it!



St. Ann's - Making a Difference





Address label here

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Tracey Tallmadge

Wardens: Betty Vail

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

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

Afton, New York 13730

P. O. Box 22

St. Ann's Episcopal Church

The Final Word



Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ... (The commandments) are summed up in this word, "love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. From Romans 13:8, 9b-10

Here, in the Second Lesson for 12 Pentecost, is more of St. Paul's guidance for Christian living that we can apply to our own lives without interpretation or translation. Once again, it can be helpful to hear Paul's words translated into contemporary (today's) language. Following is the whole passage from Romans as translated by Eugene H. Peterson in **The MESSAGE**.

"Don't run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other. When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along. The law code — don't sleep with another person's spouse, don't take someone's life, don't

take what isn't yours, don't always be wanting what you don't have, and any other "don't" you can think of — finally adds up to this: Love other people as well as you do yourself. You can't go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is love.

But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!"

Does this speak to you? Try reading it several times and then listen for what God may be saying to you. You may be surprised!

PCV