

# The Cross & Staff - January 2012

## The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

101 North Walnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 + Phone: (269) 673-2254

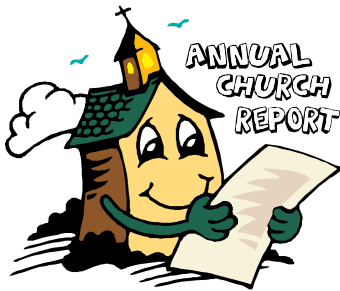


### Who needs organized religion?

My exploration of what it is to be Christian in the Episcopal Tradition has always included grappling with the question of why we need the Church. Many people feel they can be spiritual without connecting to a community of believers. God after all is accessible in every time and place. Is coping with the realities of life together, manifest in reports of conventions and synods, and seemingly endless human discussions worth the time and effort? It all depends.

My smart aleck answer to the question is that the only thing worse than organized religion is disorganized religion. More seriously, I contend that it is next to impossible to make much progress in any discipline by going it alone. Even those who avoid entering church buildings benefit from the work of those who do. Many who think of themselves as solo practitioners borrow language, practices, and conclusions from traditions that have devoted themselves to analysis and evaluation as humankind has progressed.

-- See "Religion" on page 3 --



### Work to draft the 154<sup>th</sup> annual parish report has started.

Do you have information to include? Please submit it to the office by Monday, January 16 so that the report can be compiled and printed before the annual meeting on Sunday, January 22.

### Christmas joys at Good Shepherd

#### Santa's Workshop spreads holiday spirit

Members of the Episcopal Church Women spent many hours and much energy setting up the Santa's Workshop sale in December. The group netted \$340 by selling a lot of items for a quarter, 50 cents or \$1. But the event earned more than funds. There were excited smiles on the faces of every child, parent and grandparent who came shopping. One lady, who came with her teenage daughter from a shelter, kept thanking us and letting us know she wouldn't be able to afford gifts any other place. Thank you to everyone who donated items and helped set up the sale. You made a lot of people in our community happy and helped Good Shepherd be a shining example of how to share God's love.

-- Ann Stough, ECW President

#### Holiday tradition honors Julie Hunter



A bit of Christmas joy was given to more than 50 children who attended the 2011 Julie Hunter Christmas Party at Good Shepherd on December 13. All the children enjoyed music, a magic show, pizza and pop, presents and a chance to visit with Santa Claus.

The volunteers who organized the event offer many thanks appreciation to those who baked cupcakes and did other things to make the party a success.

#### Sales and shopping for others offer special gift to parishioner

Dear church family:

A mom called me in mid-December to see if we still had items left from Santa's Workshop. She had planned to come but her ride didn't pick her up. The situation touched my heart and I offered to take her shopping instead of unpacking the left-over sale items. As someone drove her to Allegan on December 9, the car slid off the road. I finally got to meet the lady and her brother a few days later to do some shopping for her children . . . We encountered a sale on PJs. I offered to buy the mom and her brother new pajamas. They didn't want me to spend money

-- See "More" on page 2 --



## Happy Anniversary to . . .

**February 5** – Cillian and Lex Slater, **February 14** – Steve and Lynne Winters, **February 22** – Bob and Merle Cornell

## Happy Birthday to . . .

<b>Jan. 5</b> Justin Brower	<b>Feb. 2</b> Chris Sinden
<b>Jan. 7</b> Hannah Granat	Sean Conley
<b>Jan. 9</b> Kim Wheat	<b>Feb. 3</b> Theresa Krickow
<b>Jan. 11</b> Mike Pettee	<b>Feb. 5</b> Don Morris
<b>Jan. 12</b> Julie Northup	Cillian Slater
Mark Meyers	<b>Feb. 7</b> Jim Wheat
<b>Jan. 17</b> Cindy Pyle	<b>Feb. 8</b> Merle Cornell
<b>Jan. 23</b> Becky Gibson	<b>Feb. 11</b> Todd Zimmerman
Jana Wendt Tibbitts	<b>Feb. 16</b> Cyle Slater
<b>Jan. 26</b> Steve Tibbitts	<b>Feb. 23</b> Angie Sinden
<b>Jan. 27</b> Betty Miner	<b>Feb. 26</b> Bernard Iehl
<b>Jan. 28</b> Max Spicer	Katie Lange
<b>Jan. 29</b> Adam Iehl	<b>Feb. 27</b> Michelle Cook
<b>Jan. 31</b> Elisabeth White	<b>Feb. 28</b> Kate Nameche
Teresa White	
Nathan Stout	

*Help keep this list current by letting Sharon know about any special days marked by your family. If someone from each family takes a moment via phone, e-mail or written note to share birthdays and anniversaries, our parish can mark these important events.*

-- "More" continued from page 1 --

on them but I insisted. As I looked at the young man, he had tears in his eyes. I asked if he was O.K. He replied that he wanted to get on his knees and kiss my feet. So, before I started to well up, I told him I was sure there was a law against someone kissing feet in public. We all laughed. I took the pair to lunch and offered them some afghans from the Community Closet. The woman kept bursting into tears and both of them kept hugging and thanking me before they started home.

After the pair left, I sat in my car for a few minutes crying myself. Here is why: I thought about how honored and blessed I was that because of my church family and their generosity, we purchased presents for 17 children whose moms aren't home for Christmas. I saw a lady living in a shelter go from sad to happy because she could buy presents for her family during our Santa's Workshop. And I got to experience the gratitude of the mom and her brother. When people ask me what I got for Christmas this year, I respond that I have the best church family who helped create so many wonderful Christmas memories. Thank you!

Love and blessings --

*Ann Stough*

## Quick notes . . .

### **Mystical understanding of the Eucharist**

A five-week program offering "A Mystical Understanding of the Holy Eucharist" will be held in St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 427 W. Lovell Street, Kalamazoo. The Rev. Dr. Randall R. Warren will lead the 90-minute programs starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays starting January 10. More information posted on the Diocesan bulletin board.

### **Wellness focus of mini-retreat**

Holistic wellness is the focus of a mini-retreat and training program slated Saturday, February 4, at St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church at 2010 Nichols Road, Kalamazoo. The program – titled "Living Well with Living Compass" – opens at 9:30 a.m. with a mini-retreat and continues at 12:30 with a train-the-trainers workshop. Leading the program will be the Rev. Dr. Scott Stoner and his wife, Holly Hughes Stoner. The couple created the Living Compass Wellness Ministry. This program is being presented as part of health ministry efforts by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan. More information can be found in the Diocesan bulletin board.

-- "Religion" continued from page 1 --

The attempt to organize religious energy reflects the desire to maximize the use of the gifts we are given by God. And as long as we do not get distracted by the trivial, organization can be more effective than disorganization. Who would want to absent their children from any school or medical treatment program because of the imperfections present. Home schooling and Dr. Mom may for a time prove to be a better alternative in some circumstances, but at some point the expertise of more specialized or broader training is called for. Most thoughtful people prefer the frustration of government and politics to the prospect of anarchy in society.

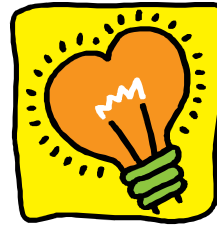
And most of us ultimately conclude that organization and disciplined effort, however capable of abuse they might be, are better than none. Once that conclusion is reached, then it is simply a question of whether or not one chooses to be a contributor to the enterprise. Then we ask ourselves which concrete enterprise is most worth our effort and where are we most likely to be enriched. The answers can be quite different for people with different gifts and histories.

Does the choice of a specific faith community make a difference? To those who would reply no, I would offer a reminder of the Jonestown community led by its charismatic leader to use of cyanide-laced Kool-aid in the late 1970's. Or the more recent press coverage of a religious group that encouraged physical punishment and locking children alone in a room with a Bible for long periods of time as part of their religious formation.

On specific issues such as the role of women in the Church, denominational differences are clear. The debate over homosexuality reveals the significance of the approaches and disciplines of different Judeo-Christian groupings. Given the complexities of the questions that arise out of Biblical interpretation, is it realistic to "go it alone?" And regardless of our personal positions on the controversies of the day, we are all served by the public discussion of issues that reflect different faith traditions.

So I believe in the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic—challenging and comforting, frustrating and inspiring, exciting and boring as it can be. I pray that we continue to discern our own vocations in this gloriously human and divine adventure . . . for our own sake and for the sake of the world.

Tom



**SERVE  
GOD  
GLADLY**

There are several opportunities within our parish to serve God and spread his love.

Will you help?

- ✓ Greet visitors during Prayers for Peace from noon to 1 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesday or Fridays. Let Sharon know if you're interested.
- ✓ Join the altar guild and help prepare the sanctuary for Eucharist. See Dede Lewis for information.
- ✓ Serve a term on the Vestry. Let Father Tom or Ray Lewis know that you're interested.

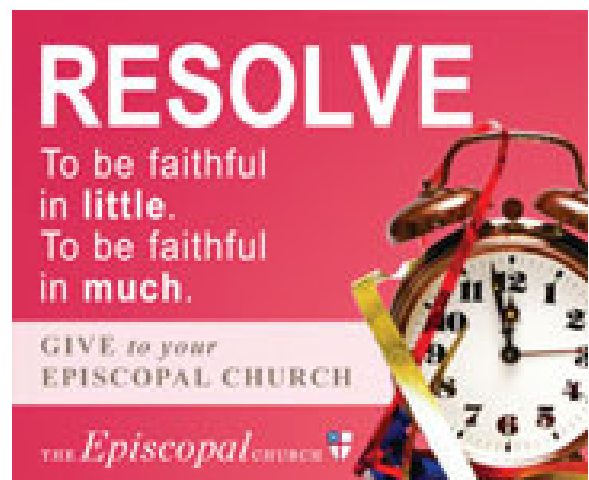


## PAUSE FOR A MOMENT . . .

and thank the 2011 Vestry members for their work during the past year. It has been a year of growth and transition but all the Vestry members— including Lynne Winters, Judy Wendt, Nick Wenban, Wendy Simmons, Korree Johnson, Linda Kauppi and Ray Lewis – worked hard.

During the annual Parish meeting on January 22, parishioners will elect people to fill two three-year terms. One seat is held by Ray, who was elected to fill an unexpired term and therefore eligible to be reelected, and the other by Lynne.

Please let Father Tom, Ray or Lynne know if you're interested in being nominated.



## Tidbits from the Treasurer . . .

Dear fellow Parishioners:

A big thank you to all who have pledged for 2012. To date, we have received 23 pledges and we still have 7 who pledged for 2011 that we have not heard from yet. It is not too late to send your pledge.

To date, we have received contributions earmarked for our Diocesan apportionment totaling \$2,662.00 so we will be paying our full apportionment by year end. That is one year ahead of where we projected we would be. We are planning some new programs for next year and hope to fund them from our 2012 budget.

This is an exciting time to be a member of Good Shepherd as we begin to grow and extend our outreach in our community.

Hope you have a happy and prosperous NEW YEAR!!!!!!!

Norm

## BY-LAW EXCERPTS PERTAINING TO ANNUAL MEETING

Parish members will elect two people during the 154<sup>th</sup> annual meeting to serve three-year terms on the Vestry.

### WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

Article 2, Section 7: To be considered eligible for election, the name of any person to be nominated from the Parish at large shall be submitted in writing to the Rector or Senior Warden together with written consent of the nominee at least twenty-four (24) hours before the annual meeting of the Parish is scheduled to be held.

### VOTING ELIGIBILITY

Article 2, Section 4: All persons who are members in good standing of the Parish as defined by the canons of the Church and the Diocese and who otherwise meet the requirements of Title II, Canon 2, Section 5 of the Canons of the Diocese as from time to time amended are eligible to vote at all Parish meetings.

[Explanation: Basically, an eligible voter must be an active, contributing member for the previous six (6) months]

### ABSENTEE VOTING

Article 2, Section 8: Although proxy votes are in no case acceptable, absentee ballots will be accepted from those eligible to vote who cannot attend the meeting if delivered in writing and in a sealed envelope to the Secretary at least one (1) day before the election. Such envelopes shall not be unsealed until ballots are collected and counted at the meeting.

In the event of a run-off election, absentee votes will not be counted for any second or subsequent balloting.

Eligible voters shall not vote for more candidates than the total number of Vestry members to be elected.

*No, dear brothers and sister, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.*

Philippians 3:13

SHARE  
GOD'S  
WORD

The one who does things that count typically won't stop to count them.

It's time to update the parish directory so it contains current contact and special events information.

**The directory only contains correct info if everyone**

**takes a moment to review and update their details.** Also, to help contain costs we are trying to use e-mail more. Please help by providing your e-mail address.

Church Directory

UPDATE



Items for the February 2012 issue of "The Cross & Staff" are due to the parish office by Monday, January 16.

# The Cross & Staff - January 2012



## Minister assignments



We work to serve all of God's creation through Christ's example of faith and love.  
Thank you for helping to serve the Lord!

Serving the week of January 1 Feast of the Holy Name	
<b>Chalice Bearer:</b>	Kate Nameche
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Ray Lewis
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Linda Kauppi 2. Ken Mills 3. Norm Richards
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Dede Lewis
<b>Ushers:</b>	Peter Corrigan
<b>Nursery:</b>	TBA
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Kate Nameche
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> – Closed for New Year's. <b>Tuesday</b> – Kay Zimmerman. <b>Friday</b> – Marv Voss.	

Serving the week of January 22 Annual meeting at 11:30 a.m.	
<b>Chalice Bearers:</b>	Norm Richards
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Peter Corrigan
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Gari Voss 2. Ken Mills 3. Wendy Simmons
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Kate Nameche
<b>Ushers:</b>	Jim Wendt
<b>Nursery:</b>	TBA
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Annual Meeting (recycle)
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> – Linda Kauppi. <b>Tuesday</b> – The Wheats. <b>Friday</b> – Ken Mills	

Serving the week of January 8 First Sunday after Epiphany	
<b>Chalice Bearer:</b>	Gari Voss
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Norm Richards
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Jan Meyers 2. Ann Perrigo 3. Peter Corrigan
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Linda Pullen
<b>Ushers:</b>	Chuck and Linda Pullen
<b>Nursery:</b>	TBA
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Lange family (recycle)
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> – Linda Kauppi. <b>Tuesday</b> – The Wheats. <b>Friday</b> – Ken Mills	

Serving the week of January 29	
<b>Chalice Bearer:</b>	Kate Nameche
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Gari Voss
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Ann Perrigo 2. Jan Meyers 3. Ed Spicer
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Dede Lewis
<b>Ushers:</b>	Ray Lewis
<b>Nursery:</b>	TBA
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Kate Nameche
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> – Lynne Winters. <b>Tuesday</b> – Kay Zimmerman. <b>Friday</b> – Marv Voss.	

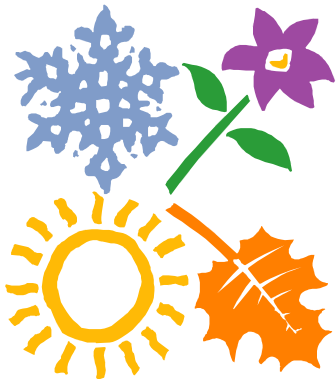
Serving the week of January 15	
<b>Chalice Bearer:</b>	Kate Nameche
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Marv Voss
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Wendy Simmons 2. Peter Corrigan 3. Linda Kauppi
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Lynne Winters
<b>Ushers:</b>	Norm Richards
<b>Nursery:</b>	TBA
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Gari Voss
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> – Linda Pullen. <b>Tuesday</b> – Linda Kauppi. <b>Friday</b> – Marv Voss.	

### — Some Calendar Notes —

- Wednesday, January 4** – Parish office reopens after the holiday.  
**Sunday, January 8** – Vestry meets at 11:30 a.m. in Winchester Hall.  
**Sunday, January 22** – Annual meeting at 11:30 a.m. in Winchester Hall.

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**Interested in hosting coffee hour a time or two this year? Please let Kay Zimmerman know.**

# 154<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting Planned



**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

The 154<sup>th</sup> annual Parish Meeting of The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd is slated to happen on Sunday, January 22. (If bad weather hits, the meeting will be postponed one week until January 29.)

Please join us in worship at 9:30 a.m. with Father Tom. A brunch will be served after the service and before the meeting convenes.

There will be two new members elected to serve three-year terms on the Vestry. (Details about the vacancies and who is eligible to vote can be found inside.)

Plan to attend and help fulfill our mission of serving all of God's creation through Christ's example of faith and love.



The Episcopal  
**Church of the Good Shepherd**  
101 North Walnut Street  
Allegan, MI 49010

## **Reflections!**

“Who needs  
organized religion?”

and

“Christmas joys”

See page 1

Whoever you are, whatever you are,  
as you are . . . we welcome you!