

The Cross & Staff - July / August 2011

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

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

Preparations begin for Allegan County Fair booth

The hot days of summer soon will give way to the cool days of fall . . . and the Allegan County Fair. So it's time to start preparing to stock and staff our food booth during the fair that opens Friday, September 9 and runs through Saturday, September 17.

Efforts to organize this year's booth – which will help our parish fund many activities – are being led by Judy Wendt and Linda Hausserman. But the ladies can't do it alone. They need help from everyone – in big and small ways – for the event to be successful.

Here are some ways you can get involved:

- ✓ Purchase seasonal fruit and prepare it for the pie baking brigade. Clean the fruit and tuck it into sealed storage bags in the freezer here at church. We need fruit to make (20) rhubarb, (25) strawberry rhubarb, (30) blueberry, (15) red raspberry, (15) black raspberry, (30) cherry, (35) peach, (30) apple and (35) Dutch apple pies.
- ✓ Jot the pie making sessions on your calendar. Volunteers will start at 6 p.m. each Wednesday from July 27 through August 31. More hands make the work go quickly.
- ✓ Watch in late August for the sign-up sheets to cover a shift or two in the booth.



Baby Closet wins grant from Pamida

A grant application to Pamida recently won \$250 for the Baby Closet. The much appreciated donation will help purchase diapers, wipes, clothing, blankets and other items needed to assemble layettes for expectant mothers.



Cool water distribution set

Parishioners plan to spread some good will by giving away free bottled water on Sunday, July 3 from 3 p.m. until dark to people heading downtown for the Independence Day festivities.

Come join the effort!

Reflections from the supply priest . . .

May they be one, even as we are one are words from the gospel we heard on June 5th for the 7th Sunday of Easter. My sermon that Sunday began:

The radical unity of being is at the heart of all authentic religious belief. Christians proclaim this central truth with every recitation of their foundational creeds: We believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, an expression of faith rich with meaning and call, repeated again and again in our Scriptures. There is one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all.

Yet in spite of our embrace of these divinely revealed truths, we experience a world deeply divided, a country sorting out conflicting values and political opinions, religious communities in debate over the will of God, local communities and families dealing competing interests and alienation, and even our own bodies struggling with various forms of disintegration.

In response to this serious disconnect between the mystical vision of unity expressed in many of our holy writings and our real life experience, the Church is called to its mission to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. (BCP p. 855)

– See "Reflections" on page 3



Happy Anniversary to . . .

July 21 – Peter Corrigan and Jun Lai; July 25 – Ed Spicer and Ann Perrigo; July 28 – Steve and Jana Tibbitts; August 21 – Jim and Margot Rolfe; August 25 – Kate and Larry Nameche

Happy Birthday to

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| July 2 — | Dede Lewis | July 25 – | Ed Spicer |
| July 9 – | Blake Zimmerman | | Linda Pullen |
| July 14 – | Gari Voss | July 29 – | Steve Lewis |
| | Sue Squiers | July 30 – | Matthew Zimmerman |
| July 15 – | Marv Voss | August 2 – | Jill Sprague |
| July 18 – | Mary Brower | August 11 – | Lynne Winters |
| July 21 – | Ann Perrigo | | Mildred Whitcomb |
| | Leah Northrup | August 17 – | Trish Morris |
| July 23 – | Georgia Stone | August 27 – | Tom White |
| July 24 – | Nick Wenban | August 29 – | Kaedance Slater |

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 help mark these important events.

Quick notes . . .

Volunteer opportunity
Searching for a way to help? Volunteers are always needed at the **Allegan Ministerium Food Pantry**. Call Sue Campbell at (269) 673-5472 ext. 222 for details.

Mark your calendars
A couple special events are being planned this fall. **Blessing of the animals** will occur on Sunday, **October 2**. An **organ dedication and celebration** will occur on Sunday, **November 6**. Watch for more details about both events.

Women's golf outing benefits Sylvia's Place
A women's open at **Shamrock Hills Golf Course** Friday, July 29, will benefit **Sylvia's Place**. The event has a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Cost of \$40 per person includes 18 holes with cart, hole events and 50/50 drawing. Potluck after the outing with each team asked to provide two dishes. Call (269) 628-2070 for details.

Help unload food
Looking for a way to volunteer? Consider helping the **First Congregational Church** of Allegan unload several trucks of food each week and then distribute it. The trucks arrive each **Thursday**. The food is handed out on **Fridays and Mondays**. Call (269) 673-3139 for more details.



Belated anniversary wishes . . .

to Bobbie and Ron Wenzel who marked their golden wedding anniversary on June 3.

Take a moment to send a greeting . . .

- to someone you haven't seen for a while. Here are some ideas.
- **Ruth Washburn** at 3385 Second Street, Wayland, MI 49348-9403. Her phone number is (269) 762-6449.
 - **Margaret Sturgis** at 1580 Larry Street, Allegan, MI 49010. Her phone number is (269) 673-2031.
 - **Tom and Mary Ann Cook** at 3101 130th Avenue, Hopkins, MI 49328. Their phone number is (269) 793-7459.

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– “Reflections” continued from page 1

There is something deeply appealing about this call to create peace, love and joy, to contribute to a world characterized by harmony. But in spite of its appeal, in spite of the faith and the hope of glory that resides within us, we can read the newspapers, look at the world around us, our church, our families and find something that leaves us feeling a bit desperate, comfortless, powerless, not having all the answers, let alone the resources to restore unity to what is broken and wounded in the world, the country, our parish, our families, or even ourselves.

The good news is that this moment of desperation, discomfort and powerlessness can be redemptive. As the General Thanksgiving on page 836 of our BCP puts it: We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Without acknowledgment of the truth that we are powerless unless we are aware of God abiding in us and allow ourselves to abide in God wisdom and holiness elude us. Control is, as Scott Peck is fond of reminding us, an illusion. Until we embrace our finiteness and our limitations, God’s grace is hampered in its efforts to shape and guide our lives. Our egos wounded by fear, guilt, anxiety and control needs can easily fail to align with God’s will.

We here at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd are about to get serious about our interim ministry together. Since my arrival in Lent, we have come to know a bit about each other and have reflected in a general way on how Christians approach religious life in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. You are currently without a rector, and the parish’s vision and sense of mission for the future has not yet been brought into clear focus by God’s Holy Spirit.

While we have prepared ourselves by observing a Holy Lent and allowed ourselves to be fortified and encouraged by the Fifty Days of Easter, we now, I pray, will begin the serious work of examining our history and address other tasks of transition time. The proposal which the Vestry and I prepared for the bishop to consider, and which we are working to finalize, includes the following goals as we come to terms with our future:

- ✓ acknowledging whatever grief or other unresolved issues might still remain in the wake of your former rectors’ departures;
- ✓ acknowledging disputes or disagreements affecting the life of the congregation and laboring to heal any divisions within the congregation;
- ✓ studying changes that may be required to align parish life and administration with generally accepted standards in the diocese;
- ✓ continuing to develop within the congregation a deepened understanding of spirituality and helping each other to express it as we discover and name our strengths and then plan an appropriate breadth of programs which it might support effectively.

In a word, we will strive to understand more deeply who we are and who we wish to become. Getting clear about what God might be calling us to is never simple. There is an interesting tidbit in the first reading from the 7th Sunday of Easter that reinforces how long it takes human beings to catch on and accept what God wants. The question asked by the disciples: Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel? is gently deflected by Jesus who doesn’t bother to chide them for their lingering misunderstanding of the very nature of the kingdom of God, which incidentally might be better translated as God’s reigning. He doesn’t call them dummies or slowpokes, stuck in the mud. He simply assures them that they will receive power to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria (generally despised Samaria you will remember), and to the ends of the earth (filled with all those Gentiles unclean from the religious perspective of Jesus’ fellow Jews). Jesus was patient with them. We need to be patient with ourselves and one another.

Let us pray. Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on your whole church, and so guide our congregation and its leaders during our transition that we may grow in our commitment to each other and to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and come to an understanding of what you are calling us to do on our journey of faith in this church, in the community, in the diocese, and in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Tom+

Our Mission: The Good Shepherd parish serves all of God’s creation through Christ’s example of faith and love.

Our Vision: The Good Shepherd parish is a welcoming, vital, dynamic, spiritual force in the community.

Our Motto: Whoever you are, whatever you are, as you are . . . We welcome you!

Jottings from the Junior Warden . . .

Summer can be so lovely in Michigan, with gardens flourishing with greenery and flowering plants. We are so fortunate at Good Shepherd to have the Memorial Garden to use for respite, contemplation, prayer or to just sit quietly and enjoy our peaceful surroundings. I would encourage all of us to thank those who make such an effort to provide this place of beauty for us to enjoy. Our church and grounds are looking especially nice during this summer season, but we still have work to do. Priorities include scraping and painting the west side of the Church, and painting the steeple when funds are available. Preserving our building is a legacy that we will leave to those who follow.

Faithfully –
Linda Kauppi



**Come to 9:30 a.m. worship
then head to the Miner Lake cottage
of Jim and Judy Wendt
for the picnic that starts at noon.**

Meat to grill, beverage and table service
provided.

Bring a dish to pass and an appetite for fun!

Directions to the Wendts' cottage: Take A37 (North Main) then turn right on 118th Avenue. Go two miles on 26th Street, turn left and drive one mile to Koteras Drive. Turn right on the dirt road. Keep to the right and travel up small hill to 1977 Koteras Drive.

Tidbits from the treasurer . . .

Dear fellow parishioners:

Welcome to summer and vacation time. While you are enjoying your vacation time, remember that the expenses of the church continue. So, please keep your pledge current.

Our apportionment asking for this year is \$7,262.90 and we have pledged to pay \$3,600 of that from our operating budget. (That's a 50 percent increase from last year.) Individuals have contributed \$1,173 towards our apportionment. That leaves the total payment to date at \$3,285. We hope individuals will continue contributing toward the apportionment this year. By the end of 2012, we must pay our full apportionment as required by Diocesan canons. We will continue using the loose plate offering the last Sunday of each month to put towards our apportionment plus any other designated contributions. Should you like to have these contributions to appear on your giving statements make a check out to Good Shepherd and note "apportionment" in the memo area.

Thanks for your continued support.

Norm



*My child, if you accept my words
and treasure up my
commandments within you,
making your ear attentive to
wisdom
and inclining your heart to
understanding;
if you indeed cry out for insight,
and raise your voice for
understanding;
if you seek it like silver,
and search for it as for
hidden treasures –
then you will understand the
fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.*

Proverbs 2:1-5

Look how our parishioners and friends are making a difference . . .

through deliveries!

Efforts continue to provide basic layette supplies to mothers in need through our Baby Closet. Several layettes are being delivered each month, and the church recently received two sizeable grants to fund the effort. Tackling much of the work related to the baby closet are Mr. and Mrs. Stork, more commonly known as **Bobbie and Ron Wenzel**. Take a moment to thank them for the love and affection they are showering on the innocent babies.

through service!

Judy Buchanan remains active with work in Doha, Qatar. Recently, she sent word that she is visible in a YouTube video about a huge building project to create worship space for all the Protestant Christian groups in Doha. Contact the church office if you're interested in the link.

through bloomin' flowers!

Take a few moments to enjoy the beauty being nurtured in our gardens. Special thanks to **Kay Zimmerman** and **Betty Miner** who helped get things growing this spring. Will you help keep it growing through the summer?



through mentoring!

Take a moment to admire the amazing paint jobs being done inside the kitchen and the upstairs library. Then, offer thanks to **Jim Kauppi** for all his work overseeing the work. Jim and several youth completing community service hours have painted the spaces bit by bit during the past few months. The youth work a couple hours each week with Jim as he provides encouragement, instruction, and friendship. They work a couple hours each week.

through letters!

Want our parish to send get well or condolence wishes to someone? Then call **Kate Nameche** at (269) 664-3248. She is willing to send a card . . . if you are willing to provide the name and address.

through music!

Worship services in recent months have been gently shaped by the talents of two accomplished musicians.

Remember to thank both **Jay Bortz** and **Martha Meek** for their efforts to help us enrich our worship through music.

Community Clothes Closet continues growth

The Community Clothes Closet has done remarkably well in 2011. Since April, the team has exchanged winter clothes for summer items. The team also has been busy receiving donated clothes from the community and several second-hand stores in the area, including Aubrey's in Allegan and The Treasure Chest in Plainwell. We are very grateful for all their donations.

We still get many new customers each week along with the regular clients. We have been told by numerous people how much this outreach is need in the area. We are proud to be able to serve them.

Our volunteers – **Carol Hiscock, Chris Thomas, Sally Richards and Nan Hunter Vincent** – are a blessing to us. We would never be able to do this on our own.

-- **Linda Hausserman and Judy Wendt**, co-chairs of the Community Clothes Closet

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Minister assignments

July 2011

Week of July 3

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Kate Nameche
Crucifer: Peter Corrigan
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Jan Meyers 2. Ed Spicer
3. Linda Kauppi
Altar Guild: Kay Zimmerman
Ushers: Norm Richards
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Kate Nameche

Prayers for Peace:

Monday – Closed for Independence Day.
Tuesday – The Wheats. **Friday** – Marv Voss.

Week of July 10

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Kate Nameche
Crucifer: Ray Lewis
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Wendy Simmons 2. Ann Perrigo
3. Ed Spicer
Altar Guild: Dede LEwis
Ushers: Chuck and Linda Pullen
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Chuck and Linda Pullen (recycle)

Prayers for Peace:

Monday – Lynne Winters. **Tuesday** – Linda Kauppi. **Friday** – Ken Mills.

Week of July 17

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Kate Nameche
Crucifer: Norm Richards
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Ann Perrigo 2. Linda Kauppi
3. Wendy Simmons
Altar Guild: Dede Lewis
Ushers: Jim and Judy Wendt
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Linda Kauppi

Prayers for Peace:

Monday – Linda Kauppi. **Tuesday** – Kay Zimmerman. **Friday** – Linda Pullen.

Week of July 24

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Kate Nameche
Crucifer: Marv Voss
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Linda Kauppi 2. Wendy Simmons
3. Ed Spicer
Altar Guild: Kay Zimmerman
Ushers: Betty Miner
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: (recycle)

Prayers for Peace:

Monday – Betty Miner. **Tuesday** – Mary Ann Ferris. **Friday** – Ken Mills.

Week of July 31

Eucharist: Parish picnic

Chalice Bearer: Kate Nameche
Crucifer: Peter Corrigan
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Norm Richards 2. Jan Meyers
3. Ann Perrigo
Altar Guild: Mary Ann Ferris
Ushers: Ray Lewis
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Lynne Wiinters

Prayers for Peace:

Monday – Linda Pullen. **Tuesday** – The Wheats.
Friday – Ken Mills.

Calendar Notes for July

- Monday, **July 4** – Independence Day. Office closed today but open 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 5
- Sunday, **July 10** – Vestry meeting at 11:30 a.m. and then **First Night Café** at 6 p.m.
- Sunday, **July 31** – Parish picnic at noon. See details on page 4.

Week of August 7

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Kate Nameche
Crucifer: Ray Lewis
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Ed Spicer 2. Norm Richards
3. Linda Kauppi
Altar Guild: Lynne Winters
Ushers: Peter Corrigan
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Betty Miner (recycle)

Prayers for Peace:

Monday – Lynne Winters. **Tuesday** – Linda Kauppi. **Friday** – Linda Pullen.

Week of August 14

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Kate Nameche
Crucifer: Norm Richards
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Peter Corrigan 2. Ed Spicer
3. Ann Perrigo
Altar Guild: Mary Ann Ferris
Ushers: Chuck and Linda Pullen
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Wendy Simmons and Carol Hiscock

Prayers for Peace:

Monday – Linda Kauppi. **Tuesday** – Kay Zimmerman. **Friday** – Marv Voss.

Week of August 21

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Kate Nameche
Crucifer: Marv Voss
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Jan Meyers 2. Peter Corrigan
3. Wendy Simmons
Altar Guild: Dede Lewis
Ushers: Norm Richards
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: The Lewis family (recycle)

Prayers for Peace:

Monday – Betty Miner. **Tuesday** – Mary Ann Ferris. **Friday** – Ken Mills.

Minister assignments August 2011



Week of August 28

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Kate Nameche
Crucifer: Peter Corrigan
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Wendy Simmons 2. Linda Kauppi
3. Norm Richards
Altar Guild: Dede Lewis
Ushers: Jim and Judy Wendt
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Ann Perrigo and Ed Spicer

Prayers for Peace:

Monday – Linda Pullen. **Tuesday** – The Wheats. **Friday** – Marv Voss.

Calendar Notes for August

- Sunday, **August 5** – First Night Café service for the young and young at heart at 6 p.m. in Winchester Hall
- Sunday, **August 14** – Regular Vestry meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Unable to serve when scheduled?

Please let the church office know as soon as possible with a phone message or e-mail. If possible, please secure your own replacement.

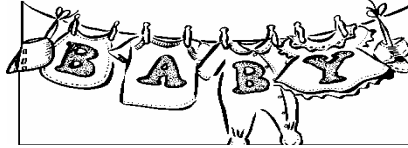
Help keep prayer list current

Please help update the prayer list by confirming with Sharon whether any family or friends you've placed on the list need continued support. This will ensure our prayer support is being channeled to those in need.

Check out our Facebook page. . .

and join the discussion by linking to <http://goodshepherd.allegan.net>

"Round Up" Benefits



Closet

More and more people know that our parish provides layettes – with diapers, wipes, clothing, blankets and other items – to expectant mothers who need a helping hand to get things ready for the arrival of their precious children. There are no strings attached to the gifts. . . but there are costs as our parish continues this mission. The program has grown so much that we recently sought some grants.

The folks with the Great Lakes Energy People Fund responded by granting the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd \$5,000 to purchase supplies needed by the Baby Closet. Great Lakes Energy can grant funds to varied community organizations and non-profit groups because many of its members voluntarily round their energy bills up to the next highest dollar.



The grants distributed by Great Lakes Energy People Fund showcase how giving even just a few pennies can make a difference. When all those rounded-up pennies are added together, great things can be done. We encourage all our neighbors and friends to participate in this program so that the fund continues helping people.



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

First Night Cafe

The next artful
worship will
actually be
at 6 p.m. July 10,
. . . the second
Sunday in July.

The service is delayed one
week because of
Independence Day
celebrations July 3
downtown.

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