

The Cross & Staff - September/October 2010

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

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

Buy an Episcopal-themed item . . . Help raise funds

Take a moment to check out the display of Episcopal-themed items in Winchester Hall. These items currently are being sold to help our parish earn additional funds. Half of all proceeds stay here.

There are tee-shirts and sweatshirts, dog collars, tote bags, earrings and necklaces, ball caps . . .and lots of other items. Many are perfect for wearing at the Allegan County Fair booth.

To purchase an item, simply leave cash or a check payable to Good Shepherd in an envelope for Norm with your name and what is being purchased.

Blessing of the Animals slated

Furry, feathered and scaly companions are invited with their owners to Good Shepherd on Sunday, October 3, to receive a special blessing.

The blessing ceremony is slated for 1 p.m. outside the church. Please make sure pets are on an appropriate leash or inside a carrier. If it rains, the service will be held inside the church.

The short service will include some scripture readings and short prayers plus a blessing statement pronounced over each animal and owner.

Reflections from the Rector

Dear People of God,

St. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God..." Truth be told, I seem to have lots of favorite verses or passages in the Bible, but this is certainly one of them. "All things work together for good!" How amazing is that! To think that whatever happens to us in life, no matter what, is eventually going to work for good – this is simply astonishing, and is Good News beyond our wildest dreams.

But – there's a catch, a condition. To his statement that all things work together for good, St. Paul adds these words: "...for those who love God..." If we love God, which means putting God first and seeking always to do God's will, life's events will wind up being good, or, as Dame Julian of Norwich famously said: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."

What a load of worry and fear that can take off our back – to know that all will be well. And that applies to every event in life. And it applies to Good Shepherd and what is going on here.

In late May or early June (I wasn't there, so I'm not sure of the date), your vestry met and was persuaded that they needed to end my tenure as rector here at Good Shepherd. They asked me if I would resign, but after much thought and prayer, I decided that resigning did not seem like the right thing to do. On Sunday, June 27, at a legitimately called vestry meeting, they voted to send a letter to Bishop Gepert informing him that they wished to dissolve the pastoral relationship between me and the parish.

When a vestry votes to end a pastoral relationship with a rector, the matter then goes to the Bishop, and could eventually involve the Standing Committee, depending upon how things transpire. Bishop Gepert wrote to us, saying that he had received the vestry's letter, that he understands that they voted in this way because of "financial exigencies," and that he has appointed The Rev. Rebecca Crise, rector of St. Mark's in Paw Paw, and Gerrie Stackhouse, a layperson in Paw Paw, to come to Good Shepherd to investigate the situation. This past Monday evening, August 30, we met with Canon Spaid and with Mother Rebecca and Gerrie, and there will probably be some individual conversations with them in the near future.

What happens now is out of our hands, for the most part, and in the hands of diocesan authorities. I believe that what we are called to do in this uncertain time is to live one day at a time,

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Happy Anniversary to . . .

September 5 – **Denny and Mary Brower**; September 10 – **Jim and Sandy Wheat**;
September 14 – **Chuck and Linda Pullen**

October 24 – **Dan and Sarah Meyers**; October 30 – **Jeff and Wendy Simmons**

Happy Birthday to . . .

September 1 — **Mary Ann Ferris**
Paul Northrup

September 4 – **Mona Iehl**

September 5 – **Doug Ferris**

September 7 – **Cheryl Joyce**
Heather Voss

September 8 – **Terri Meyers-Stout**

September 9 – **Sam Fragos**

September 11 – **Susan McKinney**

September 12 – **Penni Spicer**

September 14 – **Kay Zimmerman**

September 15 – **Julia Krickow**
Mary Jo Cook

September 23 – **Heshima Sprague**

September 25 – **Norm Richards**

September 27 – **Kandi Gibson**

September 29 – **Joan Northrup**
September 30 – **Shelley Ferris**

October 3 – **Daniela Corrigan**

October 4 – **Jim Rolfe**

October 7 – **Kristofer Morris**
Don Hausserman

October 9 – **Chuck Pullen**

October 12 – **Paul Keck**

October 13 – **Jim Joyce**

October 15 – **Imani Sprague**

October 17 – **Nanette Voss-Herlihy**

October 20 – **Elizabeth Meyers**

October 22 – **Peter Corrigan**

October 29 – **Lisa Keck**

Linda Hausserman

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

Rector - Continued from page 1

to continue worshipping, praying, having fellowship with each other, to keep on with our various ministries, to be grateful for everything that God has given to us, to keep the faith, and to do God's will as we are able to see it.

I hope that you know that God is with you and with all of us, no matter what happens. A few persons have asked me if Good Shepherd will still be here, and a number of persons have expressed concern about my wellbeing. I have no doubts at all that Good Shepherd will still be here; and I will be fine. Those things are not really in question – but I appreciate your concern for the parish and for me. The building will be here, the liturgies and sacraments will be here, the fellowship will be here, and God will be with us. All shall be well, whatever happens, because God has a most mysterious way of making all things work together for good for those who love God. Hold onto that truth.

Father William +

Halloween treats collection

Costumed kids of all ages are expected to hit downtown Allegan later this fall seeking treats so it's time to start gathering candy and other goodies.

The exact day and time of the trick-or-treating extravaganza is not yet set. Details will be announced in bulletins and on the boards. Meanwhile, let Sue Squiers know if you want to help or leave candy and treats in the office.

Carpentry skills needed

Work continues to finish the meeting space and library upstairs.

Volunteers with carpentry skills are needed to continue making progress.

Please contact Kay Zimmerman at 673-3300 if you can help.

**CHECK OUT OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE**
and join the discussion
by linking to
<http://goodshepherd.allegan.net>.



Community closet

Increasing numbers of donations and customers continue pouring into the Community Closet program due to widespread advertising and flyer distribution.

Volunteers remain busy organizing the clothes. Right now, fall and winter clothes are being set out and extra spring and summer clothes tucked away for next year. The work is done by a dedicated – and hard-working – group that includes Chris, Nan, Melissa, Karen and Nicole. **There is always room for more people to get involved helping to sort and hang the donated clothes or take ones set on the bench outside the closet to Goodwill or Salvation Army.**

In June, 232 people visited the closet and selected a total of 1,717 items. Those served included 59 people who had not visited the facility before. In July, there were 324 people who visited the closet and selected a total of 2,160 items. There were 95 people served who had not visited the facility before. The busy pace continued into August when, during the first two weeks, 145 people had stopped into the closet and selected a total of 1,064 items of clothing and shoes.

The closet will be closed Friday, September 10, Tuesday, September 14, and Friday, September 17, as many of the volunteers are scheduled to work in the Allegan County Fair booth. When normal closet hours resume Tuesday, September 21, the closet will be open 3 to 6 p.m. each Tuesday and 9 a.m. to noon each Friday.

Respectfully submitted – Linda Hausserman and Judy Wendt

Diapers. Diapers. Diapers . . . The baby pantry needs donations of newborn and size 1 diapers to give expectant mothers

Each mother also receives a basic layette with clothing, lotions and other supplies. Almost a dozen layettes have been given this year to expectant moths in need.

Operation of the Baby Pantry now is being coordinated by Bobbie Wenzel. Please let her know if you tuck any donations into the pantry area downstairs or know of any new moms who could use some help.

Baby pantry



Diocesan mission trips

Domestic Diocesan mission opportunities his year include trips Sept. 18-25 to Barnes Mounting near Lexington, Kentucky; Oct. 22-31 to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and Nov. 12-21 to New Orleans.

More detailed information is posted on the Diocesan Bulletin Board by the stairs.

Notes from the Senior Warden . . .

"How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord!"

So begins Psalm 84, one of my favorite psalms. It expresses the psalmist's deep love for the holy house of God. It's a psalm we should all read and take to our hearts for the challenging months ahead.

"Happy are they who dwell in your house." Between now and the end of the year, with all the many things we'll be doing for our church it may *feel like* we live there. But the psalmist really means that we achieve happiness when we live fully in our faith, which for us Christians means living fully in Christ, living fully in our love, living fully in our church. The point and goal of everything we do and all that we say must be 'God's house'.

Our church is, of course, Good Shepherd. But it's also the Episcopal denomination and the Anglican communion. Also it's Christendom itself. While the challenges of Good Shepherd preoccupy us right now, we must never forget that we are a crucial part of a much greater whole.

"For the Lord God is both sun and shield; he will give grace and glory." God will enlighten us and protect us. He will bring us to the best conclusion of all our problems. We will prove ourselves the most faithful to God if we focus on Him and His house: what He needs from us, what His house needs from us. Everything else right now is unimportant.

Yes, Good Shepherd is experiencing a serious lack of funds. But we are still God's house. Yes, we are facing some uncertainty. But we are still God's house. Yes, the Diocese is looking at us more closely than, perhaps, we like. But we are still God's house. And yes, we are facing some daunting changes, but we are – and will be – God's house. Just remember that we are the Church of the Good Shepherd – nothing more, nothing less. **"O Lord God of hosts, happy are those who put their trust in you."** Amen.

Faithfully, Peter

Allegan County Fair booth open again

Cool fall days are just around the corner . . . so that means it's nearly time to stock and staff the Good Shepherd food booth.



This year's fair runs from Friday, September 10 through Saturday, September 18. Volunteers still are needed to help staff the booth and to bake the pies. See the sign-up sheet outside the church office to see where you can help.

Remember that proceeds from the fair booth helps our parish fund many activities through the year. If everyone helps in some small way, the booth will be a successful fund-raising event.

Also, the Community Closet will be closed fair week so that its volunteers can help staff the fair booth.

Groups using Parish facilities

Several community groups now use our church on a regular basis for programs. Please be aware of these commitments when scheduling other events. Sometimes, the groups can move into other areas of the church but it requires advance notice.

Girl Scouts – A troop now meets at 5 p.m. Monday throughout the year.

Alcoholics Anonymous – A group gathers in the upstairs meeting room at noon Tuesdays and 8 p.m. Thursdays.

Narcotics Anonymous – A group meets in Winchester Hall at 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays.

Jottings from the Junior Warden

Several exciting things are happening here at Good Shepherd.

First of all are the major gifts of labor, paint and other materials towards improving the exterior of our beautiful church. Work has already begun and by the end of next summer we should be looking like a "brand new" historic old church. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to our generous donors. Thank you also to Nancy Winkler for procuring a great deal on paint from Seven's in Grand Rapids. (Seven's also **donated** all the paint for the upstairs library thanks to Nancy.)

Another coming attraction is that a timer will be put on the front exterior lights. (Thanks, Ray Lewis.) We'll be able to set "on and off" times and our church will be illuminated throughout the cold, dark fall and winter evenings to come.

Work continues upstairs, thanks to Kay and her volunteers. The space is looking phenomenal.

Thank you to everyone for all your hard work and dedication to Good Shepherd.

Korree Johnson, Junior Warden

Tidbits from the treasurer . . .

Dear fellow Parishioners:

Well, we are almost through August and the hot days of summer are here. Hope you all are getting some vacation time. As you enjoy your summer fun, don't forget your church as our expenses continue all year long. You can help by keeping your giving up to date. One way is to prepay before you go on vacation.

To date, our income totals \$50,528 which is ahead of budget because some people prepaid their pledge for the year. Expenses to date are \$49,765 which is below budget to date. But we have unpaid bills totaling \$2,418 and a checking balance of \$2,359. This is because we received a larger than usual receipt from the Rowley Trust the first of July. This was because we had some high interest bonds that matured but don't expect this to happen in the future.

Thanks to everyone that has contributed to the Diocesan apportionment. Through July, we have received \$1,326.

Norm

Honor departed loved ones in All Saints' Day service

Honor the memory of loved ones who have passed by bringing a framed photograph or other memento to place around the nave during the All Saints' Day worship on Sunday, November 7. The items may be left in the church office or placed about the nave after November 1.

Also, the names of any departed loved ones given to Sharon by Friday, October 29, will be included in a special prayer read during the All Saints' Day service.

Diocesan ECW program Oct. 2 in Traverse City

Get a chance to enjoy the foliage colors and learn about how the Jubilee House program is help address homelessness during the Diocesan ECW Fall Gathering.

The event begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, at the Grace Episcopal Church in Traverse City. Cost is \$15 per person, and includes a continental breakfast and salad luncheon.

The program will focus on how the Jubilee House, an outreach/ drop-in center, within the diocese is helping address homelessness. Registration information is tacked to the diocese bulletin board at church.

Loose plate offering goes to Diocesan apportionment

Remember that the loose plate offering the last Sunday of each month goes towards the Diocesan apportionment. You might also get a 'pence can' from Korree Johnson, do a 13th month giving, add \$1 each week or get extra envelopes from Norm. Your gifts help share the living Episcopal Mission around the Diocese, the country and the world!

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Week of September 5

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Norm Richards
Crucifer: Ray Lewis
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Jan Meyers 2. Peter Corrigan
3. Ann Perrigo
Altar Guild: Kay Zimmerman
Ushers: Jim and Judy Wendt
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Chuck and Linda Pullen (recycle)

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: CLOSED for Labor Day
Tuesday: Peter Corrigan
Friday: Peter Corrigan

Week of September 12

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Marv Voss
Crucifer: Norm Richards
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Wendy Simmons 2. Jan Meyers
3. Nancy Winkler
Altar Guild: Mary Ann Ferris
Ushers: Betty Miner
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Kay Zimmerman

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Betty Miner
Tuesday: Kay Zimmerman
Friday: Linda Pullen

Week of September 19

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Peter Corrigan
Crucifer: Marv Voss
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Ann Perrigo 2. Linda Kauppi
3. Wendy Simmons
Altar Guild: Lynne Winters
Ushers: Ray Lewis
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Jim and Sandy Wheat (recycle)

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Lynne Winters
Tuesday: The Wheats
Friday: Kate Nameche

Ministers for September 2010

Week of September 26

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Kate Nameche
Crucifer: Peter Corrigan
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Linda Kauppi 2. Norm Richards
3. Ed Spicer
Altar Guild: Trish Morris
Ushers: Jim and Sandy Wheat
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Linda Hausserman

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Lu Holland
Tuesday: Mary Ann Ferris
Friday: Marv Voss

Schedule Notes for September

- Sunday, **September 5** – Thank you to Mary Brower for accompanying us today.
- Monday, **September 6** – Office closed today because of Labor Day. Sharon will be in Wednesday, September 8 and Friday, September 10.
- Friday, **September 10** through Saturday, **September 18** – Allegan County Fair open. Please volunteer to help staff our booth and bake pies.
- Friday, **September 10**, Tuesday, **September 14**, and Friday, **September 17** – Community Closet closed so volunteers can work at the fair.
- Sunday, **September 19** – Vestry meets at 11:30 a.m. The meeting was delayed one week because of the Allegan County Fair.

The Cross & Staff - September/ October 2010

Week of October 3

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Ray Lewis

Crucifer: Norm Richards

Torch Bearers: TBA

Lectors: 1. Nancy Winkler 2. Ed Spicer

3. Norm Richards

Altar Guild: Dede Lewis

Ushers: Kandi Gibson

Nursery: TBA

Coffee Hour:

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Linda Kauppi

Tuesday: Kay Zimmerman

Friday: Linda Pullen

Week of October 10

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Norm Richards

Crucifer: Ray Lewis

Torch Bearers: TBA

Lectors: 1. Kandi Gibson 2. Nancy Winkler

3. Linda Kauppi

Altar Guild: Kandi Gibson

Ushers: Peter Corrigan

Nursery: TBA

Coffee Hour:

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Lynne Winters

Tuesday: Judy Wendt

Friday: Don Morris

Week of October 17

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Marv Voss

Crucifer: Peter Corrigan

Torch Bearers: TBA

Lectors: 1. Norm Richards 2. Ann Perrigo

3. Wendy Simmons

Altar Guild: Kay Zimmerman

Ushers: Chuck and Linda Pullen

Nursery: TBA

Coffee Hour:

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Lu Holland

Tuesday: The Wheats

Friday: Marv Voss

Ministers for October 2010

Week of October 24

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Norm Richards

Crucifer: Marv Voss

Torch Bearers: TBA

Lectors: 1. Peter Corrigan 2. Wendy Simmons

3. Ed Spicer

Altar Guild: Mary Ann Ferris

Ushers: Ray Lewis

Nursery: TBA

Coffee Hour:

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Linda Kauppi

Tuesday: Mary Ann Ferris

Friday: Kate Nameche

Week of October 31

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Kate Nameche

Crucifer: Norm Richards

Torch Bearers: TBA

Lectors: 1. Ed Spicer 2. Jan Meyers 3. Linda

Kauppi

Altar Guild: Dede Lwis

Ushers: Jim and Judy Wendt

Nursery: TBA

Coffee Hour:

Prayers for Peace:

Monday:

Tuesday:

Friday:

Schedule Notes for October

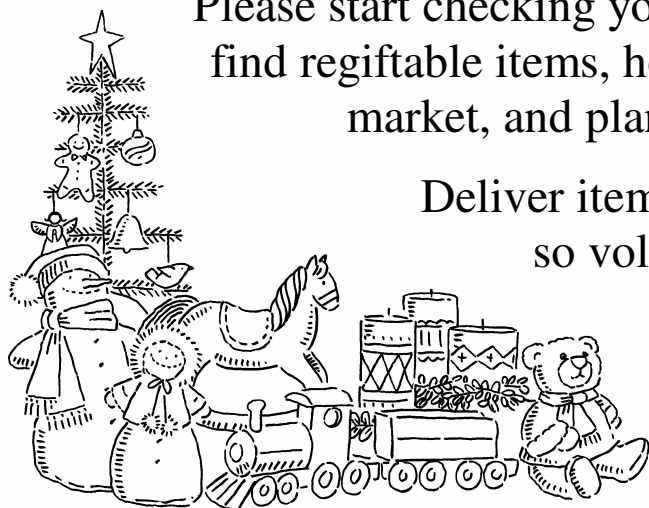
- No names are listed for coffee hour because the sign-up sheet has not yet been circulated. Please let Kay Zimmerman know if you are interested in hosting coffee hour one week.

Country Market opens Saturday, November 6 in Winchester Hall

Please start checking your treasures at home to help the ECW find regifiable items, holiday decorations and jewelry for the market, and planning canned and baked goods to sell.

Deliver items to the church by Friday, October 15
so volunteers can set up the market displays

. . . and let an ECW member know if
you are willing to help prepare for
or work during this annual fundraiser.



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

Blessing of the Animals

Set for 1 p.m.
Sunday,
October 3
outside the
church

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