

# The Cross & Staff - September/ October 2011

## The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

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

### Ways to serve God at Good Shepherd

Lots of activities are occurring within the Good Shepherd parish to spread God's love and news. Won't you consider getting involved a bit?

- ◆ Pause during a **patriotic service** and a special fellowship hour on Sunday, **September 11**, to honor the memory of those who died ten years ago in the 9/11 attacks.
- ◆ Join a group presenting a float in the Allegan County **Fair Parade** on Tuesday, **September 13**.
- ◆ Help staff a shift or two at the **fair booth** from **September 9 – 17**.
- ◆ Bring your furry, feathered and scaly friends to the **Blessing of the Animals** service slated for noon Sunday, **October 2**.
- ◆ Support the ECW by gathering items for the annual **Country Market** on Saturday, **November 5**, and the second annual **Santa's Shop** on Saturday, **December 3**. The ladies plan to **set up** for the first sale on Sunday, **October 30**.
- ◆ Help distribute candy and snacks to **trick-or-treaters** stopping at the church on Monday, **October 31**.
- ◆ Bring photos and other mementos to honor deceased family and friends during the **All Saints' Day service** slated for Sunday, **November 6**.
- ◆ Enjoy a good concert during an **organ rededication service** planned for Sunday, **November 6**.

Call the office or see a Vestry member for more details about any of these activities.



### ECW plans for Country Market and Santa's Shop

Those involved with the Episcopal Church Women are starting to prepare for two annual events:

- ◆ Country Market will open on Saturday, November 5 with a variety of holiday decorations, jewelry, hand-made gifts, regifiable items, baked goods, frozen treats and other items.
- ◆ Santa's Shop will open on Saturday, December 3 with a variety of inexpensive items that children and low-income individuals may purchase for holiday gifts. (The goal is to have lots of things priced for a dollar or two plus an area where children can wrap their gifts.)

You can help by checking your home for items that could be sold during either event, and gathering ingredients to help make the treats. Plan to bring items to the church by Sunday, October 30 so volunteers can start setting up for the sales.

Please see Ann Stough for more details.

### Allegan County Fair booth to open

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

This year's fair runs from Friday, September 9 through Saturday, September 17. A few volunteers still are needed to help staff the booth. See the sign-up sheet outside the church office.



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.



**Happy Anniversary to . . .**

September 2 – **Jim and Linda Kauppi**; 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 . . . .**

- |           |                              |           |                             |
|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Sept 1 —  | <b>Mary Ann Ferris</b>       | Oct. 3 —  | <b>Daniela Corrigan</b>     |
|           | <b>Paul Northrup</b>         | Oct. 4 —  | <b>Jim Rolfe</b>            |
| Sept 4 —  | <b>Mona Iehl</b>             | Oct. 7 —  | <b>Kristofer Morris</b>     |
| Sept 5 —  | <b>Doug Ferris</b>           |           | <b>Don Hausserman</b>       |
| Sept 7 —  | <b>Cheryl Joyce</b>          | Oct. 9 —  | <b>Chuck Pullen</b>         |
|           | <b>Heather Voss</b>          | Oct. 12 — | <b>Paul Keck</b>            |
| Sept 8 —  | <b>Terri Meyers-Stout</b>    | Oct. 13 — | <b>Jim Joyce</b>            |
| Sept 9 —  | <b>Sam Fragoso</b>           | Oct. 15 — | <b>Imani Sprague</b>        |
| Sept 11 — | <b>Susan McKinney</b>        | Oct. 17 — | <b>Nanette Voss-Herlihy</b> |
| Sept 12 — | <b>Penni Spicer</b>          | Oct. 18 — | <b>Theresa Gray</b>         |
| Sept 14 — | <b>Kay Zimmerman</b>         | Oct. 29—  | <b>Lisa Keck Neal</b>       |
| Sept 15 — | <b>Julia Krickow</b>         |           | <b>Jay Bortz</b>            |
|           | <b>Mary Jo Cook</b>          |           | <b>Linda Hausserman</b>     |
| Sept 22 — | <b>Anne (Ferris) Brenner</b> |           |                             |
| Sept 23 — | <b>Heshima Sprague</b>       |           |                             |
| Sept 25 — | <b>Norm Richards</b>         |           |                             |
| Sept 27 — | <b>Kandi Gibson</b>          |           |                             |
| Sept 29 — | <b>Joan Northrup</b>         |           |                             |
| Sept 30 — | <b>Shelley Ferris</b>        |           |                             |

*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.*

**Take a moment to send a greeting . . .**

to someone from our parish. Here are some ideas.

- **Tom and Katie Lange** at 124 Depot Hill Road, Allegan, MI 49010. (Note their new address.) Their phone is (269) 760-0607.
- **Mary and Denny Brower** at 2240 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Allegan, MI 49010. Their phone number is (269) 673-4198.
- **Robin and Bernard Iehl** at 4357 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Allegan, MI 49010. Their phone number is (269) 521-3118.

**Quick notes . . .**

**Diocesan Altar Guild**

The annual Diocesan Altar Guild Gathering is slated for Saturday, September 17, at St. Marks in Grand Rapids. Registration opens at 9 a.m. The group is seeking nominations to serve three-year terms on the board. More details are posted on the Diocesan bulletin board.

**Lakeshore Pregnancy Center seeks golfers**

Lakeshore Pregnancy Center will host its 10<sup>th</sup> annual 100-hole golf marathon on Friday, September 9 at Diamond Springs Golf Course. The event includes a steak dinner, contests and prizes. Pledge cards available for raising sponsorship. Contact Cori at (616) 396-5840 or [cori.frasso@lpcenters.com](mailto:cori.frasso@lpcenters.com).

**Planning stewardship campaign events**

It's time to start planning the annual stewardship campaign and dinner. Would you be able to help with these important tasks this year? If so, please let Ray Lewis or Norm Richards know.

**Volunteer need**

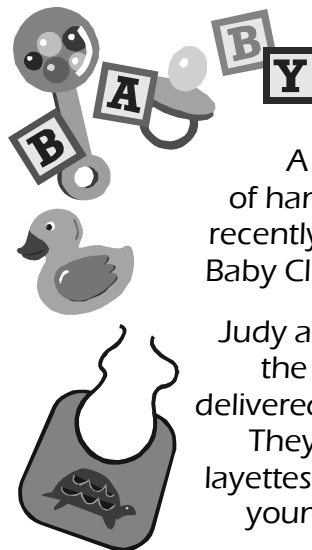
The Allegan Ministerium Food Pantry always needs help. Call Sue Campbell at (269) 673-5472 ext. 222 for details.

Belated  
congratulations to  
Jim and Margot Rolfe  
who celebrated their  
60<sup>th</sup> wedding  
anniversary  
August 26, 2011

Send them a note at  
527 Marshall Street  
Allegan, MI 49010



**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY**



A beautiful variety  
of hand-made blanket sets  
recently were donated to the  
Baby Closet by Judy Mudgett.

Judy and her family created  
the sets with love and  
delivered them in early August.  
They will be used in the  
layettes the parish provides to  
young mothers in need.

**WANTED: Help moving clothes**

Sometimes items donated to the Community Closet  
are stained or torn. Closet volunteers simply don't  
have the resources to repair and clean these items. . .  
but other groups do. **Would you be willing to help  
deliver bags filled with these things to either  
Goodwill or the Salvation Army?** Just check the  
bench at the bottom of the basement stairs. If there  
are bags, load them into your vehicle and take them  
a thrift store. Your efforts will let closet volunteers  
focus on serving clients.



For everything there  
is a season and  
a time for every  
matter under heaven.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1



Your greatest possession?

The 24 hours directly in front of you!

How will you use them for God?

**Jottings from the Junior Warden . . .**

Summer is winding down and soon school will be back in session. With the change of seasons, come new activities and challenges for the Parish. Plans are being made for activities to increase our visibility in the community . . . not only will we continue the food booth at the Allegan County Fair but we also plan an entry in the parade. Blessing of the Animals will occur in October. Work continues in Winchester Hall, in the library and in the kitchen along with ongoing repairs of identified problems as they occur. The Community Closet and the Baby Closet are utilized by citizens of this area as an outreach that has demonstrated the great need for the services. Both programs are managed and staff by dedicated parishioners and friends of Good Shepherd who deserve recognition and thanks. To one and all, thank you for all you do to maintain and encourage the vibrancy and the vitality of this Parish.

Faithfully - Linda Kauppi

**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!

## Blessing of the Animals



St. Francis

Furry, feathered and scaly companions are invited with their owners to receive a special blessing Sunday, October 2, at Good Shepherd.

The blessing ceremony is slated for noon 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 service will include scripture readings and short prayers plus a blessing statement pronounced over each animal and owner.

## Honor departed 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 6. The items may be left in the church office or placed in the nave after October 31.

Also, the names of any departed loved ones given to Sharon by Monday, October 31, will be included in a special prayer read during the All Saints' Day service.



## 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 from our operating budget \$3,600. That is a 50 percent increase from last year. Individuals have contributed \$2,323 toward our apportionment for a total payment of \$4,723 to date. We hope individuals will continue to contribute toward the apportionment this year. By the end of 2012, we must be paying our full apportionment as required by Diocesan canons. We will continue to use the loose plate offering the last Sunday of each month to pay toward our apportionment plus any other designated contributions. Should you like to have these contributions appear on your giving statements please make a check out to Good Shepherd and note in the memor area for apportionment.

Thanks for your continued support -- Norm

## Community Closet: News and notes

Here are a couple important points about the Community Closet outreach:

- ◆ The closet will close a few days during September because most of the volunteers will be helping run the parish booth at the Allegan County Fair. Those days include Friday, September 9; Tuesday, September 13, and Friday, September 16.
- ◆ With the fall and winter quickly approaching, many closet clients seek blankets and sheets. Gently used or new ones would be appreciated.
- ◆ The closet can always use jeans for men, ladies and children. There also is a constant demand for children's clothing items

## Collecting treats for Halloween event

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. City leaders have slated trick-or-treating from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, October 31. More details about the parish plans to hand out treats will be announced in bulletins and on the parish board. Meanwhile, let Sue Squiers know if you want to help or if you can help provide candy and treats.



## Part mystery, part mess

Unity over uniformity in the church

By Peter W. Marty

Something in human nature has us wanting to be around other people who resemble us. We make strenuous efforts to group ourselves with people who like the same things we do. There is, of course, nothing wrong with banding together with like-minded people. It just happens to suit the formation of a political party better than it does Christ's church. It aligns more closely with a club where one pays dues than a fellowship of forgiven sinners who ponder deep realities.

Those who give it a serious piece of their lives quickly discover that the church is often 51 percent mystery and 49 percent mess. They also find out that no matter how flawed the individuals within it may be, the church still happens to be the garden of God's grace. Adherents begin to delight in this strange menagerie of people who often come from a dizzying variety of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives.

"A Christian congregation is the least specialized gathering of human beings on the planet," said Eugene Peterson, a Presbyterian pastor and author. "Where else can you find yourself bracketed by nursing infants on one side, nodding octogenarians on the other, and rubbing shoulder with so many people whom you acknowledge, however grudgingly, as brothers and sisters, and with whom you have nothing in common except your common humanity . . . and God."

The significance and risk of this togetherness is too much for some. Plenty of people take one look and opt out. They prefer believing in themselves, or at least more in their own story. Freelance discipleship sounds a lot better than attaching oneself to some older story, however wiser it may be. Who wants to trust in a God whom they can't see? For individuals who can't handle the nature of this faith journey, there is always ad-hoc living. A make-up-your-own-spirituality-every-day sounds more tantalizing than hanging around some unholy assortment of people who refer to themselves as Christ's body.

For those of us who bend our lives around God's decision to be the head of this odd-shaped body, Christian community delivers incredible joy and meaning. We find something extraordinarily beautiful in following a light that is brighter than the flicker of our own little light.

We discover through the foibles and faith of one another that we become better people than if we were left merely to ourselves. In fact, we learn that a truly spirit-filled community is one where we can come as we are, yet be loved into being who we get to become. We gather in our inadequacy, yet scatter with new boldness. Anything less means something is probably amiss.

Healthy cells in a body always function with their own unique purpose, yet in an interdependent fashion. Cancer cells are the only ones that insist on being independent and autonomous. True Christian community prizes this same interdependence that is at work in our bodies. People who believe the answer to their deepest need comes from outside themselves cherish this interdependence. They begin to count on the provocative idea that church is the primary express of the embodiment of God.

German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer liked to speak of the *privilege* of being in active fellowship with believers who are different. His words helpfully suggest that there is more than one way to be authentically Christian. An incomparable joy arises when people of faith recognize the image of God in those who aren't constructed exactly in their image. We might say, "Blessed are those who do not leave a church simply to find one where everyone else thinks like they do."

Jesus' new commandment on the last night of his life wasn't a promotion of tribal solidarity or like-mindedness. His interest was the bringing together of followers on the basis of something other than complete agreement. "Love one another just as I have loved you" (John 13:34). There is no mention of agreement with one another. His own spirit and love would be the basis of unity – not some neat ideological conformity.

So where do we find this unity in the church? We find it in a love that is born when people believe more in God and each other than in themselves. It is God helping flawed people breathe grace together

*Marty is a pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa, and author of [The Anatomy of Grace](#) (Augsburg Fortress, 2008.)*

**This article originally appeared in July 2011 edition of "A Lutheran Christian Life for today."  
The article is reprinted here with the author's permission.**

Father Tom offers special thanks to Ken Mills who first read this article and then shared it.

## Week of September 4

*Eucharist:*

**Chalice Bearer:** Kate Nameche  
**Crucifer:** Ray Lewis  
**Torch Bearers:** TBA  
**Lectors:** 1. Ann Perrigo 2. Wendy Simmons  
3. Kandi Gibson  
**Altar Guild:** Lynne Winters  
**Ushers:** Betty Miner  
**Nursery:** TBA  
**Coffee Hour:** Bobbie Wenzel and Jan Meyers  
(recycle)

*Prayers for Peace:*

**Monday** – Closed for Labor Day. **Tuesday** –  
Linda Kauppi. **Friday** – Ken Mills.

## Week of September 11

*Eucharist:*

**Chalice Bearer:** Kate Nameche  
**Crucifer:** Norm Richards  
**Torch Bearers:** TBA  
**Lectors:** 1. Kandi Gibson 2. Peter Corrigan  
3. Ed Spicer  
**Altar Guild:** Mary Ann Ferris  
**Ushers:** Ray Lewis  
**Nursery:** TBA  
**Coffee Hour:**

*Prayers for Peace:*

**Monday** – Lynne Winters. **Tuesday** – Kay  
Zimmerman. **Friday** – Marv Voss.

## Week of September 18

*Eucharist:*

**Chalice Bearer:** Kate Nameche  
**Crucifer:** Marv Voss  
**Torch Bearers:** TBA  
**Lectors:** 1. Linda Kauppi 2. Jan Meyers  
3. Ann Perrigo  
**Altar Guild:** Kay Zimmerman  
**Ushers:** Peter Corrigan  
**Nursery:** TBA  
**Coffee Hour:** Betty Miner (recycle)

*Prayers for Peace:*

**Monday** – Linda Kauppi. **Tuesday** – Mary Ann  
Ferris. **Friday** – Ken Mills.



## Minister assignments September 2011

## Week of September 25

*Eucharist:*

**Chalice Bearer:** Kate Nameche  
**Crucifer:** Peter Corrigan  
**Torch Bearers:** TBA  
**Lectors:** 1. Norm Richards 2. Kandi Gibson  
3. Wendy Simmons  
**Altar Guild:** Dede Lewis  
**Ushers:** Chuck and Linda Pullen  
**Nursery:** TBA  
**Coffee Hour:** The Lewis family (recycle)

*Prayers for Peace:*

**Monday** – Betty Miner. **Tuesday** – The Wheats.  
**Friday** – Linda Pullen.

## Calendar Notes for September

- Monday, **September 5** – Labor Day. Office closed today but open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 6.
- Friday, **September 9** through Saturday, **September 17** – Allegan County Fair booth open. Can you help cover a shift or two? **Also**, the Community Closet will close Friday, **September 9**; Tuesday, **September 13**, and Friday, **September 16** so volunteers can be help at the fair.
- Sunday, **September 11** – Special service and fellowship time to remember those who died in the 9/11/2001 attacks.
- Tuesday, **September 13** – Allegan County Fair parade. Help with the parish entry.
- Sunday, **September 18** – Vestry meets at 11:30 a.m. in Winchester Hall.

**Week of October 2**

*Eucharist:*

**Chalice Bearer:** Kate Nameche  
**Crucifer:** Ray Lewis  
**Torch Bearers:** TBA  
**Lectors:** 1. Peter Corrigan 2. Ed Spicer  
3. Jan Meyers  
**Altar Guild:** Kandi Gibson  
**Ushers:** Norm Richards  
**Nursery:** TBA  
**Coffee Hour:** Ed Spicer and Ann Perrigo  
(recycle)

*Prayers for Peace:*

**Monday** – Linda Pullen. **Tuesday** – Linda Kauppi. **Friday** – Ken Mills.

**Week of October 9**

*Eucharist:*

**Chalice Bearer:** Kate Nameche  
**Crucifer:** Norm Richards  
**Torch Bearers:** TBA  
**Lectors:** 1. Ed Spicer 2. Ann Perrigo  
3. Peter Corrigan  
**Altar Guild:** Mary Ann Ferris  
**Ushers:** Jim and Judy Wendt  
**Nursery:** TBA  
**Coffee Hour:** Nick and Theresa Wenban

*Prayers for Peace:*

**Monday** – Lynne Winters. **Tuesday** – Kay Zimmerman. **Friday** – Marv Voss.

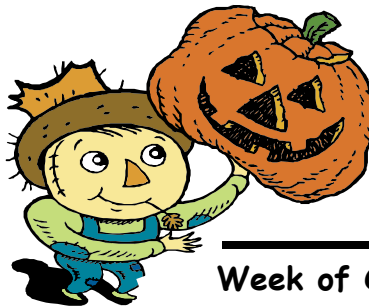
**Week of October 16**

*Eucharist:*

**Chalice Bearer:** Kate Nameche  
**Crucifer:** Marv Voss  
**Torch Bearers:** TBA  
**Lectors:** 1. Jan Meyers 2. Linda Kauppi  
3. Norm Richards  
**Altar Guild:** Dede Lewis  
**Ushers:** Ray Lewis  
**Nursery:** TBA  
**Coffee Hour:** Mary Ann Ferris (recycle)

*Prayers for Peace:*

**Monday** – Linda Kauppi. **Tuesday** – Mary Ann Ferris. **Friday** – Ken Mills.



**Minister assignments  
October 2011**

**Week of October 23**

*Eucharist:*

**Chalice Bearer:** Kate Nameche  
**Crucifer:** Peter Corrigan  
**Torch Bearers:** TBA  
**Lectors:** 1. Wendy Simmons 2. Pete Corrigan  
3. Kandi Gibson  
**Altar Guild:** Kay Zimmerman  
**Ushers:** Betty Miner  
**Nursery:** TBA  
**Coffee Hour:** Kay Zimmerman

*Prayers for Peace:*

**Monday** – Betty Miner. **Tuesday** – The Wheats.  
**Friday** – Marv Voss.

**Week of October 30**

*Eucharist:*

**Chalice Bearer:** Kate Nameche  
**Crucifer:** Ray Lewis  
**Torch Bearers:** TBA  
**Lectors:** 1. Ann Perrigo 2. Wendy Simmons  
3. Ed Spicer  
**Altar Guild:** Mary Ann Ferris  
**Ushers:** Peter Corrigan  
**Nursery:** TBA  
**Coffee Hour:** Linda Kauppi (recycle)

*Prayers for Peace:*

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

**Calendar Notes for October**

- Sunday, **October 2** – Blessing of the Animals at noon.
- Sunday, **October 9** – Vestry meets at 11:30 a.m.

Check out our Facebook page. . . and join the discussion at <http://goodshepherd.allegan.net>

# Tragedy struck on 9/11 ten years ago when terrorists attacked our nation.

**Join a special worship service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, September 11  
as we remember the events of that day  
and those who perished in the attacks**

(Please let the office know by Tuesday, September 6,  
the names of any friends or family who died in the attacks so those  
individuals can be remembered in prayer during the service.)

**Miss Kate also will host a special fellowship gathering after  
service and collect a freewill offering for the Episcopal  
Church in New York City to help those who continue  
rebuilding their lives.**



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

## **Reflect:**

about how the  
church is  
"Part mystery,  
part mess"

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See page 5

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

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