

The Cross & Staff - July/ August 2010

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

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

Community Closet gets WalMart grant

Volunteers within the Community Closet recently received a \$500 grant check from WalMart.

The funds can be used to purchase clothing, shoes and outerwear to stock the closet racks. The funds may not be used to improve the facility or cover operational costs.

“Parish and community members have contributed many, many items to fill the closet shelves,” program chairperson Linda Hausserman said. “But there are times when donations just don’t match needs.”

For example, Linda said, the closet doesn’t often receive gently used underwear or shoes that patrons need.

Volunteers will use the grant money to seek bargains at yard sales and thrift stores or during clearance sales at area stores.

The number of people stopping into the closet each week and selecting a variety of clothes continues to grow. Parishioners should be proud of how this ministry is making a difference.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

and join the discussion.

Link to the our church page from <http://goodshepherd.allegan.net>.

Reflections from the Rector

Money is a very big deal – there is no doubt about that. We all need to have a certain amount of it in order to survive, and we all want a certain amount of it to be able to have and to do things we want. And – we all have fears about money, precisely because we have a secret fear that without enough money, we’ll be living on the streets and dumpster-diving for our food, and might not even survive. We also love our church, and we can have fears about whether our church is going to survive.

I want to remind you of something that can be difficult to hold in mind when we are facing money shortages: Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:25-33 that we are not to worry about money and other survival issues because of the fact that God clothes and feeds even the birds and the flowers and that we human beings are worth far more to God than the birds and flowers.

This doesn’t mean that we are not to have concern about financial things or not to plan; but it means that we do what we can and leave in God’s hands the things we cannot control. In actual practice, that is, of course, easier to say than to do.

So here’s the deal on some financial matters regarding Good Shepherd right now. Money is tight – no doubt. At annual diocesan convention of 2007 (diocesan convention is the legislative body of any diocese), the people of the diocese (the clergy and the elected lay delegates from every parish) voted that each parish must pay a certain percentage of its net disposable income to the diocese. This means that parish giving to the diocese will no longer be voluntary, as it has been, and will become mandatory. The vote of convention said that as of 2012, if a parish were not paying its full apportionment to the diocese, the Bishop could assume control of the parish, dissolve the vestry if he chose to, and dictate how he wanted things to happen in the parish, including the budget.

This is not a power grab or a money grab or any other such negative thing by our Bishop. It may help to think of it as similar to our property taxes; if we don’t pay them, lots of things that we need to pay for won’t get done, including funding for our schools. So no city or town government in the country is going to say to the townspeople: “Oh, if you can’t pay your full tax bill, that’s OK. We’ll let you off the hook.” And no city or town government is going to put our tax bill on a voluntary basis. It’s the dues of being a citizen and having lots of benefits. Who among us wants to do without police and firefighters and sewers and traffic lights and schools and so forth? Perhaps for some folks it is harder to see the benefits of being part of an Episcopal diocese, but the benefits are there. We have a diocesan bishop and the bishop’s staff; we have diocesan programs; we have diocesan oversight.

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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

August 30 –

Matt and Amber Zimmerman

Happy Birthday to . . .

July 2 — **Dede Lewis**

July 9 – **Blake Zimmerman**

July 14 – **Gari Voss**

July 14 – **Sue Squiers**

July 15 – **Marv Voss**

July 18 – **Mary Brower**

July 21 – **Ann Perrigo**

July 21 – **Leah Northrup**

July 23 – **Georgia Stone**

July 25 – **Ed Spicer**

July 25 – **Linda Pullen**

July 29 – **Steve Lewis**

July 30 – **Matthew Zimmerman**

August 1 – **Father William Whiting**

August 2 – **Jill Sprague**

August 11 – **Lynne Winters**

August 11 – **Mildred Whitcomb**

August 17 – **Trish Morris**

August 27 – **Tom White**

August 29 – **Kaedance Slater**

Help keep the celebrations list current by letting Sharon know any birthdays or anniversaries marked within your family.

If someone from each family takes a moment via phone, e-mail or written note to share the information, our parish will be able to mark these important events.

Rector continued from page 1

Another benefit is that we are part of the Episcopal Church, and we have a long and very rich tradition. Another good thing is that we get to be part of diocesan outreach, of mission to those in far more need than we are. I understand that some people might think we should pay attention to our own needs before helping people in the Dominican Republic, but I wonder if Jesus might think differently, the Jesus who commended the widow for putting in the temple treasury all that she had rather than keeping it for herself, and the Jesus who told the rich young man to sell all that he had and give it to the poor and to follow Jesus.

What is being asked of us is nothing that is not being asked of every Episcopal church in the country. It is not “the diocese” or “the Bishop” trying to do anything negative to us at all. Nobody wants to close Good Shepherd, and the Bishop does not look greedily at our endowment money or at the money that could come from selling our building. The Bishop wants us to succeed, not to fail. The Bishop was genuinely delighted when he was here in January to see that we are doing rather well and have significant outreach ministries. I have heard the rumor that the Bishop wants our endowment money and wants to sell our building to get that money, and it is simply not so. We are only being asked to contribute our fair share, as the people of the diocese voted in convention.

In the months to come, what we need to do is to come together and work on finding ways to come up with our fair share. What one parishioner said at Annual Meeting made some sense to me, namely, that those of us who are able to do so put into the collection plate every week an amount equivalent to a latte at a coffee shop. That in itself would defray most of our extra cost of fulfilling our apportionment. But even that might miss the spiritual mark a bit, because as Canon Spaid said, “As long as there are people in the congregation who are not tithing, there is more stewardship work to do.” We may also need to take a long, hard look at our anger and resentment toward the diocese, which could get in the way of our generosity, not to speak of hurting our souls. As I heard someone say once, “A resentment is like drinking poison and hoping the other person will die.” There are opportunities here for us to grow in our life in Christ. Such opportunities are not always easy or pleasant, but often our greatest growth comes from dealing with things that trouble us.

This newsletter will be sent out while I’m on vacation, and I hope you will find some time to relax and enjoy God’s creation this summer. God has given to us in tremendous abundance. As we say some Sundays, “All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.” All that we are and all that we have are gifts from God. May God grant us the grace to use them according to God’s will.

Father William +

Bike ride benefits food pantry

A bike-a-thon is slated Saturday, July 10 to benefit the Allegan Ministerium Central Food Panty. The event begins at 9 a.m. in the Allegan Sports Complex off Hooker Road with 1 and 10 mile rides. Information sheets and pledge forms are available from the parish office.

Next adult ed book discussion set

The National Episcopal Church has chosen *Forgiving Ararat* by Gita Nazareth as the recommended book for church reading groups this year. The novel is about a young lawyer who dies unexpectedly and, arriving in heaven, learns she has been chosen to join the elite lawyers who prosecute and defend souls at the Final Judgment. "This glorious, triumphant work leads its readers from the wrathful lands of the east . . . and back to the Garden of Eden," writes John Steinbeck, author of *Grapes of Wrath* and *East of Eden*.

Our adult ed reading group plans to discuss the book after the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, July 18. In the event that few people are available to participate, we can move the date back or forward a week or two. For this to happen, however, those interested need to sign up and express their interest.

The book, *Forgiving Ararat*, is available in paperback for \$10.06 from books.com or for \$11.45 through www.BarnesandNobleBooks.com with free shipping on orders of \$25 or more. You also can check the library for a copy . . .but first come, first served! (Please let me know if you want to place a group order. If you wish to do this, you will need to pay with cash or check and I will use order the books using my membership.)

Please sign up today during coffee hour. Also, let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Thanks for your interest . . . Jan Meyers

p.s. If anyone would care to facilitate this book discussion, please let me know. I think that this is a gift we should all share.

Tidbits from the treasurer . . .

Dear fellow Parishioners:

Well the year is half over and the hot days of summer are here. I hope you are all getting some vacation time. As you enjoy your summer fun, don't forget our 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 \$41,670 which is ahead of budget because some people have prepaid their pledge for the year. Expenses to date are \$41,688 which is below budget to date. But we have unpaid bills totaling \$2,958 and a checking balance of \$631 so please help in any way you can.

Norm

Parish Office Hours

- In August, Father William plans to be in the office Mondays and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. unless he is making parish visits or attending Diocesan events. He may step out for up to half an hour for lunch.
- Sharon will be in the office from noon to 5 p.m. Mondays and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays during July. In August, she will work 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Fridays. Any exceptions – because of holidays or vacation travel -- will be in Sunday bulletins and posted on the door.

Diocesan mission trips

Domestic Diocesan mission opportunities this 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 . . .

In times of dramatic change and transition, it can be very easy for people to slip into a survival mindset. They frequently begin to sound like : "We should do this." "We ought to say that." "These things need to happen." This type of thinking is actually a little dangerous for a church because it confuses the business of the church with the work of God.

We do the work of God better when our thoughts are focused on possibility-thinking: "We can serve God more by doing this." "We will spread the gospel-message further by providing that." "We can teach stewardship better by speaking here." Possibility-thinking celebrates a church by showing it to be a vibrant, highly complex and dynamic organism -- not just the sum of a roof, a boiler, office-hours, this outreach program, that bylaws revision, and a new coat of paint.

Sure, we maintain a church with our hands and our backs and with what's in our pockets. But we will grow a church with what's in our hearts and our minds, with the strength of our faith, with the power of our words, and with our love for one another. This is the way and the life of Christ.

Soon enough we enter the season of pie-baking, stepped up fundraising, garden clean-up, and multiple task-forces. It's my prayer for Good Shepherd that we undertake all these activities out of a deep love of God, with hearts enkindled by the Holy Spirit, and with a profound sense that we **are** the spiritual heirs of Christ's redemptive power. We do these activities not for the survival of our church, but because this is how our faith thrives, this is how we are resurrected into a life everlasting.

Faithfully,
Peter

Worship in July and August

There will be several Morning Prayer services conducted while Father William is on vacation. Peter Corrigan will officiate on Sunday, July 4 and Sunday, July 25. Norm Richards will officiate on Sunday, July 18.

Holy Eucharist will be celebrated by the Rev. Charles Homeyer in Sunday, July 11, and by the Rev. Claire K. Wolterstorff on Sunday, July 18. Father William will resume celebrating Holy Eucharist on Sunday, August 1.

Emergency contacts while Father William gone

Emergency pastoral help will be provided by two different people while Father William is on vacation through Friday, July 30.

From June 27-July 15, contact the Rev. Mary Perrin of St. Martin of Tours Church in her office at (269) 381-3188 or via cell phone at (269) 658-0646.

From July 16-27, contact the Rev. Rebecca Crise of St. Mark's Church in Paw Paw in her office at (269) 657-3762 or via cell phone at (219) 928-5275.

Parish facilities being used by groups

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

Sometime I have to wonder if all the churches have as many unselfish and giving people in their midsts as we do here at Good Shepherd. It seems that no matter when I stop by the church something good is being done by some unrecognized person of our parish. Last Saturday, Jim Wendt was pulling vines and pruning shrubs, and Trish Morris was dropping off clothing for the closet. On Monday, Norm was toiling away in the office and Peter was meeting with a jail representative. On other occasions, I've come upon Ed dropping off new soup bowls, Kay working in the chapel or Ray installing a new sign.

Baking pies, collecting and handing out clothes to the needy, carrying a cross, helping with funerals, throwing luncheons, playing organ, working at the fair, setting the altar, welcoming visitors . . . the list goes on and on. And it all makes Good Shepherd what it is.

Thank you so much!

Korree Johnson, Junior Warden

Help needed ASAP for upstairs project

An experienced painter has offered to paint the renovated library and meeting room spaces upstairs later in July. The painter is willing to do the work for free using paint that was donated. . . . All we have to do is get the prep work done so when the painter has some free time he can get started.

Can you help spackle, sand or paint woodwork in the space? If so, please let Kay Zimmerman know by Friday, July 9.

Let's keep momentum on this exciting renovation project moving forward so we can all enjoy using the additional space.

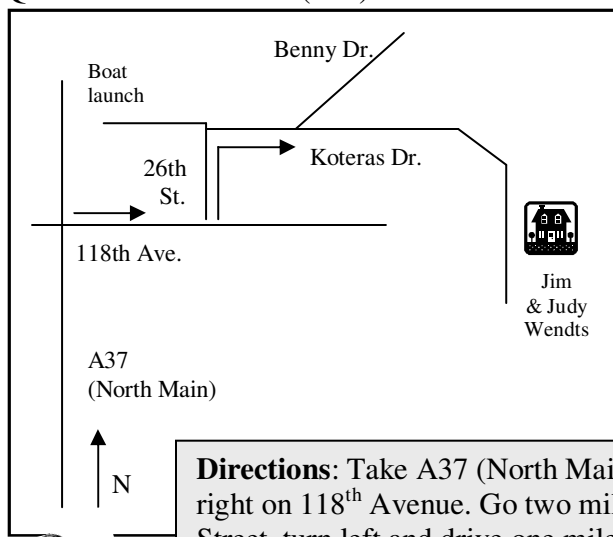
Options to celebrate special occasions

Parishioners and community members can make special days or just celebrate life in a variety of ways.

- **Sponsor the altar flowers or sanctuary lamp.** Check the sign-up sheet on the parish bulletin board for available dates. Simply note your name, the date and service(s) being sponsored and the occasion being acknowledge. Tuck your donation into the secured box on the treasurer's desk.
- **Schedule an honorific bell ringing.** Contact Sharon or Korree to schedule the ringing during the Prayers for Peace session held at noon each Monday, Tuesday and Friday. A special card will be sent to the honored individual – or their family – to mark the ringing. Again, tuck your donation into the secured box on the treasurer's desk.

Annual Parish Picnic - August 8

Join the fun during the annual Parish Picnic. Attend the 9:30 a.m. service on August 8 then head to the Miner Lake cottage of Jim and Judy Wendt for the picnic that starts at noon. Bring a dish to pass. Meat to grill and table service will be provided. Questions? Call Jim at (269) 650-1036.



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



Update e-mail contacts

To cut costs, we're trying to send more things electronically. Please help by sending your current e-mail address to goodshepherd@allegan.net

Week of July 4

Morning Prayers:

Officiant: Peter Corrigan
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Wendy Simmons 2. Jan Meyers
3. Ed Spicer
Altar Guild: Trish Morris
Ushers: Ray Lewis
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Wendy Simmons

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Betty Miner
Tuesday: Kay Zimmerman
Friday: Marv Voss

Week of July 11

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Marv Voss
Crucifer: Ray Lewis
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Ann Perrigo 2. Norm Richards
3. Peter Corrigan
Altar Guild: Dede Lewis
Ushers: Chuck and Linda Pullen
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Lewis family (recycle)

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Lu Holland
Tuesday: Jim and Sandy Wheat
Friday: Peter Corrigan

Week of July 18

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Norm Richards
Crucifer: Peter Corrigan
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Kandi Gibson 2. Linda Kauppi
3. Nancy Winkler
Altar Guild: Kandi Gibson
Ushers: Jim and Judy Wendt
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Lynne Winters

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Lynne Winters
Tuesday: Bobbie Wenzel
Friday: Peter Corrigan

Ministers for July 2010

Week of July 25

Morning Prayer:

Officiant: Peter Corrigan
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Norm Richards 2. Ann Perrigo
3. Wendy Simmons
Altar Guild: Kay Zimmerman
Ushers: Betty Miner
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Ann Stough/ Kandi Gibson
(recycle)

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Sue Squiers
Tuesday: Mary Ann Ferris
Friday: Kate Nameche

Scheduling Notes for July

- Father William on vacation this month.
- Sunday, **July 4** – Morning Prayer with Peter Corrigan officiating.
- Monday, **July 5** – Office closed because of Independence Day. Sharon in office from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday and Friday.
- Sunday, **July 11** – Holy Eucharist celebrated by the Rev. Charles F. Homeyer. Vestry meets at 11:30 a.m.
- Sunday, **July 18** – Holy Eucharist celebrated by the Rev. Claire K. Wolterstorff. Adult Ed reading group discussed *Forgiving Ararat* by Gina Nazareth. See Jan Meyers to sign up.
- Sunday, **July 25** – Morning Prayer with Peter Corrigan officiating.
- Friday, **July 30** – Father William returns to office.

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Week of August 1

Eucharist:

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

Prayers for Peace:

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

Week of August 8 - Parish Picnic

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Peter Corrigan
Crucifer: Ray Lewis
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Norm Richards 2. Kandi Gibson
3. Ann Perrigo
Altar Guild: Lynne Winters
Ushers: Jim and Sandy Wheat
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Picnic at the Wendts' cottage

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Lynne Winters
Tuesday: Jim and Sandy Wheat
Friday: Marv Voss

Week of August 15

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Norm Richards
Crucifer: Marv Voss
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Peter Corrigan 2. Ed Spicer
3. Wendy Simmons
Altar Guild: Trish Morris
Ushers: Kandi Gibson
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Betty Miner

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Linda Kauppi
Tuesday: Bobbie Wenzel
Friday: Peter Corrigan

Ministers for August 2010

Week of August 22

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Marv Voss
Crucifer: Norm Richards
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Linda Kauppi 2. Ann Perrigo 3.
Nancy Winkler
Altar Guild: Dede Lewis
Ushers: Peter Corrigan
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Mary Ann Ferris (recycle)

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Sue Squiers
Tuesday: Kay Zimmerman
Friday: Kate Nameche

Week of August 29

Eucharist:

Chalice Bearer: Kate Nameche
Crucifer: Peter Corrigan
Torch Bearers: TBA
Lectors: 1. Ed Spicer 2. Wendy Wimmons 3.
Linda Kauppi
Altar Guild: Kandi Gibson
Ushers: Norm Richards
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Jun Lai and Peter Corrigan

Prayers for Peace:

Monday: Lu Holland
Tuesday:
Friday:

Schedule Notes for August

- Sunday, **August 8** – Parish Picnic at the Wendts' cottage. See page 5 for details.
- Sunday, **August 15** – Vestry meets at 11:30 a.m.

Preparations starting for Allegan County Fair booth

The current 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 runs September 10 through September 18.



Start purchasing seasonal fruits and preparing it for the pie baking brigade. Clean the fruit and tuck six cups each into freezer bags that can be stored here at the church. We 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.

Note the pie making sessions on your calendar. Volunteers will start at 6 p.m. each Wednesday from July 21 through September 1. More hands make the work go quickly.

Watch in late August for sign-up sheets to help staff the fair booth.

Remember this helps our parish fund many activities through the year. Everyone's help is needed in some small way to have a successful event.



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

Work continues

to refurbish the
upstairs library
and meeting
space.

Can you help?

See p. 5 for info!

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