



# The Cross & Staff - August - September 2014

## The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

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

### THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

## Acceptance, Beliefs, Canaanites, Dogs

*The woman came and knelt before Jesus saying "Lord, help me." Jesus answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."*

However successful the Humane Society has been in sensitizing us to the worth of animals, it's still not considered nice to call someone a dog (male or female). This morning's Gospel passage jars us as Jesus responds to a woman pleading for her afflicted child with a retort that characterized the typical attitude of pious and observant Jews toward the heathen in their neighborhood, especially the Canaanites who were historically adherents of the cult of Baal.

In Hebrew folklore these inhabitants of the land between Syria & Egypt were understood to be the descendants of Canaan, the son of the accursed Ham who looked upon the nakedness of his inebriated father Noah (more frequently remembered for his Ark than for this particular episode in the Book of Genesis). To appreciate the depth of the revulsion God's Chosen People were inclined to feel for Canaanites and their ancestors, it is helpful to observe that such "looking upon nakedness" is in other passages of the Hebrew Bible a euphemism for more than looking.

Pervasive in the territory of Canaan for centuries was the worship of Baal, a mythic male figure that might best be described as a personification of the natural force responsible for the perpetuation of life. Religious practices of the Canaanites included not only human sacrifice but temple prostitution as a means of making contact with divinity and enhancing fertility. Sexual expression was seen as a means of connecting with the divine. One could safely observe that Canaanites were not perceived to be "family values" kinds of folk nor were their attitudes toward human sexuality exclusively focused on procreation of children.

On Israel's return from Exile in the 5<sup>th</sup> century before Christ, the prophets Ezra and Nehemiah labored strenuously to restore religious purity in a region that they perceived as seriously corrupt. Mixed marriage, i.e. a marriage between a Jew and a non-Jew Canaanite was seen as a threat to the practice of true religion. Whether or not we would see it as morally defensible, it is perhaps understandable, given the context of the time, that Ezra believed that Hebrew males who had married non-Hebrew women from the area should be **required to cast off their wives and children**. A list of those obedient men who sent away their foreign wives and children is found in the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of Ezra. And the woman in today's gospel was a descendant of that shunned Canaanite crowd.

I think it would be fair to observe that God's People have taken a seriously serious approach to questions of family relationships and sexuality --

-- See "Acceptance" on page 4 --

### EPISCOPAL BISHOPS

### ON GAY MARRIAGE:

## Discrimination is not the Lord's way

*The bishops in Michigan published this joint statement March 25, 2014 in The Detroit Free Press.*

As bishops of the Episcopal Church in Michigan, we are compelled by our office and our conscience to present a perspective on marriage equality that differs substantively from the positions of our state's top elected leaders and the religious leaders whose voices have dominated the public square. We offer a message of hope to those alienated by the traditional teachings of the church and the constitutional denial of civil rights.

When asked what is the greatest commandment, Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-38 NRSV). Condemning love and condemning those seeking to make a faithful, committed, and

-- See "Lord's Way" on page 3 --

To learn more about the history and current status of "Ordination of women in the Anglican Communion," visit Wikipedia online and search the topic. (Or ask the parish office for a copy of the article.)



# The Cross & Staff - August - September 2014



## Happy Anniversary to . . .

**August 9** – Mike and Sue Buese; **August 17** – Matt and April Zimmerman;  
**August 25** – Kate and Larry Nameche  
**September 2** – Jim and Linda Kauppi; **September 10** – Jim and Sandy Wheat;  
**September 14** – Chuck and Linda Pullen

## Happy Birthday to . . .

<b>August 2</b>	Jill Sprague	<b>September 8</b>	Terri Meyers-Stout
<b>August 11</b>	Lynne Winters Mildred Whitcomb	<b>September 9</b>	Sam Fragoso
<b>August 17</b>	Trish Morris	<b>September 11</b>	Susan McKinney
<b>August 26</b>	Bill Jundzillo	<b>September 12</b>	Ella Spicer
<b>August 27</b>	Tom White	<b>September 14</b>	Kay Zimmerman
<b>August 29</b>	Kaedance Slater	<b>September 15</b>	Julia Krickow Mary Jo Cook
<b>September 1</b>	Mary Ann Ferris Paul Northrup	<b>September 22</b>	Anne (Ferris) Brenner
<b>September 4</b>	Mona Iehl	<b>September 23</b>	Heshima Sprague
<b>September 5</b>	Doug Ferris	<b>September 25</b>	Norm Richards
<b>September 7</b>	Cheryl Joyce Heather (Voss) Barta	<b>September 27</b>	Kandi Gibson
		<b>September 29</b>	Joan Northrup
		<b>September 30</b>	Shelley Ferris

## Quick notes . . .

### Community Closet closing for county fair

Volunteers will close the Community Closet on Tuesday, September 9, and Friday, September 12, as the Allegan County Fair occurs.

### Diocese seeks people for domestic missions

Volunteers are being sought by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan for a mission trip September 14-20 into the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky. Trip participants will stay at St. Timothy's Camp in Irvine, KY, and help area residents with home rehabilitation and repairs or cook for the mission crew. Participants will be trained how to do the repairs or improvement projects.

The Diocese also is seeking volunteers for a trip November 7-16 to New Orleans. Volunteers on this trip will either help refurbish homes or work on planting trees and shrubs in the area.

For more details on either trip, contact domestic missions coordinator Tami Varricchio Drehle by calling the diocesan offices at (269) 381-2710 or sending an e-mail to [countontami@gmail.com](mailto:countontami@gmail.com).

*Help keep this list current. Let the parish office know about any special days marked by your family so we can help mark these important events.*

## Prayer Requests

### Prayers recently requested for:

*(These petitions were made or renewed within the past month.)*

Jim Joyce; John; Kay Zimmerman; Jim Pyle; Brent Larson; Mary Joan Lange; Anne; Tom; Jennings and Boysen; Kate; Mercedes and her family; Charlotte and Gene; Karen; Jill; Sister Mercedes Kirst and Sister Immaculate; Joe Campbell; Neal; Rich; Valentine; all the people suffering during the conflict in Iraq; Carol; Logan; Dorothy; Scott

### Please continue to pray for:

*(These petitions were made or renewed within the past year.)*

Kate Nameche; Gary and Suzanne; Denise; the Hammock and Burke families; Vicki; Lois; Madison; Rosemary; Don Berryman; Ted Lange; Christine; Ron and Gretchen Wedge; Vicki Barber; David, son of Marty Hesse; Butch Iehl; Father Tom; Steve and Lynne Winters; Betty Powers; Sally; Dustin; Florence; Rachel, Evelyn and Wayne; Evan Jay Morey; Linda Pullen; Ray

### General prayer concerns:

the people who continue recovering from natural disasters, especially the people of the Philippines, those facing economic challenges, those living amid the unrest in the Middle East, and those soldiers serving

*Please let the office know if you have any new petitions to add or any older petitions can be removed so that our parish effectively channels our prayers.*



# The Cross & Staff - August - September 2014

## Parish office hours shifting slightly

Parish office hours will change some after Labor Day so Sharon can meet some shifting family needs. The office will be open to the public from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays, 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays.**

## *The Episcopal* **Church of the Good Shepherd**

### **Priest-in-charge**

Rev. Thomas  
Toeller-Novak  
(616) 490-3335

### **Senior Warden**

Ray Lewis (2012-2015)

### **Junior Warden**

Kandi Gibson (2014-2017)

### **Vestry Members**

Judy Buchanan (2014-2015)  
Mike Buese (2013-2016)  
Ann Perrigo (2013-2016)  
Norm Richards (2013-2016)  
Wendy Simmons (2014-2017)

**Treasurer** -- Norm Richards

**Clerk of Vestry** -- Gari Voss

### **Assistant Clerks of the Vestry**

Judy Buchanan  
Wendy Simmons

**Our mission:** We serve all of God's creation through Christ's example of faith and love.

**Our vision:** We want to be a welcoming, vital, dynamic, spiritual force in the community.

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

## -- "Lord's Way" from page 1 --

covenantal relationship to one another under God is not a message built on the teachings of Christ, but is rather a fear-laden response to one's neighbor.

Our faith is in a loving and compassionate God who does not condemn love, and in our experience, there is holy goodness in the love of gay and lesbian couples and their families.

As the case of *DeBoer v. Snyder* continues to work its way through our judicial system, we hope that judges will find that the denial of marriage to those whose expression of love is same-gendered is both a denial of human dignity and a denial of rights under the law. We pray that Michigan will finally be able to proudly stand on the right side of history and join the 17 other states whose laws affirm the equality of all faithful, committed and covenantal relationships.

As Christians, we cannot be silent as our state's highest laws discriminate against segments of our society based on the personal biases of those in power, particularly when a majority of Michigan's population now supports marriage equality. To remain silent is to be complicit in the decline of our society through demonizing unprotected minorities, segregation based on sexual preference, denial of benefits to selected groups, and fear-based prejudice. Our continued silence can lead only to further discrimination, bullying and other forms of physical, emotional and spiritual violence.

In a state marked by growing violence and desperate poverty, marks of love and grace ought to be welcomed in abundance and without qualification or restriction. We need to remove discriminatory policies that bar certain groups of people from enjoying the same benefits and privileges afforded other members of society.

We need to ensure that our schools are safe places for our young people to be open about who they are without fear of persecution or violence.

We need to create a Beloved Community in which all persons are equal, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sex, class, religion, disability, or sexual orientation. And we need the full opportunity to recognize faithful and covenantal relationships between any two people seeking our blessing, both within the church and within our civil society.

We look forward in hopeful anticipation to the day when all people receive equal treatment from one another and under the law. May justice prevail.

*The Rt. Rev. Wendell Gibbs Jr.—Episcopal Diocese of Michigan.*

*The Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley -- Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan*

*The Rt. Rev. Rayford J. Ray -- Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan.*

*The Rt. Rev. Whayne M. Hougland Jr -- Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan*

## **Work begins on Allegan County Fair parade entry**

Volunteers are working to create an Allegan County Fair parade entry that shows support for the LGBTQ community. **(The parade is slated for to pass before the grandstand at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 11.)** The theme of the entry is "Looking back is hurtful, looking forward is hopeful." The entry will feature a giant segmented rainbow plus signs identifying denominations, like Episcopalian, and groups -- including PFLAG and the Small Town Allies -- that support the LGBTQ community. If you want to help out, please see Martha Meek.

# The Cross & Staff - August - September 2014

-- "Acceptance" continued from page 1 --

something that has not been restricted to Israel's history but has continued in the life of the Christian Church. But Israel's concern for procreation and its roll in the survival of its race has added a real edge to explorations of sexual morality.

But to be fair to be fair to Old Testament and medieval Christian spirituality, such an attitude of exclusion of those who deviated from norms of morality rooted in the primacy of procreation, is not in keeping with the broader vision of Israel expressed in the book of the earlier prophet Isaiah and in the Gospels. The spirit of openness we hear in the teaching of Jesus stands in significant contrast to the general practice of His time when those who considered themselves true Israelites simply were to have no dealings with Canaanites or Samaritans.

Lest we be too harsh on our religious ancestors, it is good to remember our concerns and strategies as parents with respect to our children's companions in their formative period. The power of peer pressure inclined most of us to attempt to influence our kids' choice of friends. And it wasn't so long ago that many Christian denominations indulged in a separatism that discouraged mixed marriages as well as racial or ethnic contamination.

Jesus' initial non-response to the shouting woman was quite in keeping with the post-Exile protectionist attitude that had become typical of a strain of strictly observant followers of the Law. Saul would have shared this separatist mentality prior to his conversion and later struggled mightily, as we have been hearing this summer in his letter to the Romans, to find God's hand at work in the history of both Israelites and Gentiles.

In the episode that underlies today's Gospel, I suspect Jesus had some tongue in his cheek as He mused in his human consciousness over his own mission and then articulated prejudice commonly held by his compatriots. The sharpness of the exchange would have not been unusual in religious circles of the time among rabbis and their students. What was highly unusual was Jesus doing this in public with a non-Jew who, on top of that, was a female. But, as Jesus relents and cures the Canaanite woman's daughter, I think we find a message that is similar to the message of Paul in his epistle to the Romans.

It is a proclamation of God's mercy to all who come seeking help from God, whether they are perceived by others as dogs, cats or rats. God is not bound by barriers of race, color, ethnic origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities or age (to borrow language from our Canons of the Episcopal Church which state that no person shall be denied access to the discernment process for any ministry, lay or ordained, in this church because of race, color, ethnic origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities or age.)

But this simple affirmation is easier proclaimed than lived out. Exclusivism and exclusion live on in our society and in our churches and need constant attention. As progressive a community as Allegan is, it still harbors residual prejudice against people of different races and sexual orientations. Last year, as a float expressing support for lesbian and gay people moved during the Allegan County Fair parade, participants were both cheered and jeered as the parade passed by. Last month, I shared with our local Ministerium the liturgical resources that have been made available for the blessing of same-sex covenants and experienced some considerably varied responses.

Since the national convention of the Presbyterian Church USA had met in June and affirmed by 60% the acceptance of same-sex marriages, the local Presbyterian pastor spoke of how proud she was of civil and sensitive discussions that were a part of the deliberations. Here at Good Shepherd our Vestry discussed the wisdom of joining this year's fair parade to participate with representatives of the United Church of Christ, the ELCA Lutherans and the Presbyterian Church USA in a demonstration of support for Small Town Allies and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays on September 11 this year. Along with clergy of these congregations, you are invited to be a part of the parade, or the "procession" as we Episcopalians tend to describe such activities. (See page 5 for more detail.)

For my part, I am proud that our Episcopal Church has not avoided facing the issues even though there have been times when we have not conducted ourselves as kindly as we might. The commitment of the Episcopal Church to eliminating sexual abuse, as well as its commitment to tolerance and love for all regardless of sexual orientation, is part of our history. Scholarship and dialog have been played out remarkably well over the last quarter century. . and I am grateful and proud of my community of faith.

## Parish continues preparing for Allegan County Fair booth

Cool fall days are just around the corner so it's time to stock and staff the Good Shepherd food booth at the Allegan County Fair. This year, the fair runs from **Friday, September 5** through **Saturday, September 13**. A number of projects – and volunteers – are still needed to help our team operate this booth. Remember that proceeds from this booth helps our parish fund many day-to-day operational costs. **If everyone helps in some way, the booth will be a successful fundraiser and we'll have a little fun too!**



- ✓ **Help open the booth for the season** – Volunteers are needed to make sure everything is operational before fair week starts. (Volunteers also are needed to clean the space and winterize it after the fair closes.) Please see **Kandi Gibson** to learn how you can help with this.
- ✓ **Help staff the booth** – Volunteers staff the booth for three four-hour shifts each day during the fair. We need three people to work each shift. Volunteers take orders, do final assembly of the product and take payment. (Working a shift is a great way to spend time with friends or make some new ones! ☺) Sign up on the sheet in Winchester Hall after August 22 or talk with **Kandi Gibson**.
- ✓ **Help bake the pies** – Thanks to the hard-working pie brigade there are lots of yummy frozen pies ready for the fair but they need baked. We do a few each day to meet demands. Talk with **Carol Hiscock or Wendy Simmons** if you're willing to help with this project.

Also this year, Kandi hopes to borrow or rent a camper unit to provide an easily accessible place where booth volunteers can take a break or use the restroom. Please let her know if you have one.

## Plan to attend Diversity Training at St. Mark's in September

A day-long workshop meant to develop and deepen your awareness of how we understand race, culture and systemic injustice is being offered by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan.

The program is slated from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, September 13, in St. Mark's Episcopal Church at 134 Division Avenue N, Grand Rapids. Registration must be made with Klena Causey at (313) 833-4423 by September 10.

**All clergy and lay leaders of the Episcopal Church are required to attend anti-racism training to fulfill Resolution B049 of the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Convention.**

The training is being facilitated by Crossroad Antiracism Organizing and Training as the Province V diocese, including EDWM, work together forming a response to racism in the lower peninsula.

**Good Shepherd Vestry members plan to attend this workshop, and expect that anyone involved with any outreach ministry of the parish will too.**



Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby wrote to ecumenical partners about the July 14 decision by the General Synod of the Church of England to allow women to become bishops, emphasizing that churches "need each other." (Find a copy of the letter by using the web address on back page or contact the parish office. ) **Here is a very brief excerpt from his letter:**

This is an occasion of deep rejoicing for many, especially for many of the women clergy in the Church of England. They feel that this decision affirms their place and ministry in the life of the Church. For others in the Church of England, the decision may be a source of disappointment and concern.

As the Synod moved towards the decision many were struck by the spirit of the debate: frankness, passion and, I am glad to say, a good deal of Christian charity. It all indicated an intention and sincere assurance to hold all of us together in one Church. There appeared a determination that the genuinely held differences on the issue of the ordination of women to the episcopate should not become a dividing factor in the Church of England, and there was care and expressions of love for those troubled by the outcome.



# August

## Minister assignments

Serving 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 August 3	
<b>Chalice Bearer:</b>	Kate Nameche
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Norm Richards
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Linda Kauppi 2. Ken Mills 3. Sue Buese
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Gari Voss
<b>Usher:</b>	Jim Wendt
<b>Vestry Duty:</b>	Kandi Gibson
<b>Musician</b>	Martha Meek
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Mike and Sue Buese
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> –Betty Miner <b>Wednesday</b> –Norm Richards <b>Friday</b> –Marv Voss	

Serving the week of August 10	
<b>Chalice Bearer:</b>	Judy Buchanan
<b>Crucifer</b>	Ray Lewis
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Norm Richards 2. Wendy Simmons 3. Judy Buchanan
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Dede Lewis
<b>Ushers:</b>	Norm Richards
<b>Vestry Duty:</b>	Ray Lewis
<b>Musician</b>	Martha Hesse
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Mary Ann Ferris
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> – Lynne Winters <b>Wednesday</b> –Linda Kauppi <b>Friday</b> – Mary Ann Ferris	

Serving the week of August 17 Parish Picnic	
<b>Chalice Bearer:</b>	Kate Nameche
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Marv Voss
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Sue Buese 2. Ann Perrigo 3. Ed Spicer
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Mary Ann Ferris
<b>Ushers:</b>	Betty Miner
<b>Vestry Duty:</b>	Ann Perrigo
<b>Musician:</b>	Martha Hesse
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	PARISH PICNIC
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> – Linda Kauppi <b>Wednesday</b> – Norm Richards <b>Friday</b> –Marv Voss	

Serving the week of August 24	
<b>Chalice Bearers:</b>	Gari Voss
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Steve Lewis
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Ed Spicer 2. Jan Meyers 3. Norm Richards
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Lynne Winters
<b>Ushers:</b>	Ray Lewis
<b>Vestry Duty:</b>	Norm Richards
<b>Musician:</b>	Martha Hesse
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Gari Voss
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> –Linda Pullen <b>Wednesday</b> –The Wheats <b>Friday</b> – Mary Ann Ferris	

Serving the week of August 31	
<b>Chalice Bearer:</b>	Ray Lewis
<b>Crucifer</b>	Norm Richards
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Jan Meyers 2. Gari Voss 3. Linda Kauppi
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Linda Pullen
<b>Ushers:</b>	Kandi Gibson
<b>Vestry Duty:</b>	Wendy Simmons
<b>Musician</b>	Martha Hesse
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Jan Meyers
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> – CLOSED Labor Day <b>Wednesday</b> – Norm Richards <b>Friday</b> –	

Some calendar notes
<b>Wednesday, August 13</b> – Pie baking brigade at 6 p.m.
<b>Sunday, August 17</b> – Parish picnic at the Wendts' cottage on Miner Lake
<b>Wednesday, August 20</b> – Pie baking brigade at 6 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, August 27</b> – Pie baking brigade at 6 p.m.



# September

## Minister assignments

Serving 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 September 7	
<b>Chalice Bearer:</b>	Kate Nameche
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Marv Voss
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Wendy Simmons 2. Norm Richards 3. Ann Perrigo
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Lynne Winters
<b>Ushers:</b>	Norm Richards
<b>Vestry Duty:</b>	Judy Buchanan
<b>Musician:</b>	Martha Meek
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> – Betty Miner <b>Wednesday</b> -- Linda Kauppi <b>Friday</b> – Mary Ann Ferris	

Serving the week of September 14	
<b>Chalice Bearer:</b>	Judy Buchanan
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Ray Lewis
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Gari Voss 2. Ken Mills 3. Linda Kauppi
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Dede Lewis
<b>Ushers:</b>	Jim Wendt
<b>Vestry Duty:</b>	Mike Buese
<b>Musician:</b>	Martha Hesse
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> – Lynne Winters <b>Wednesday</b> – Norm Richards <b>Friday</b> – Marv Voss	

Serving the week of September 21	
<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	Kate Nameche
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Gari Voss
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Judy Buchanan 2. Ed Spicer 3. Wendy Simmons
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	
<b>Ushers:</b>	Betty Miner
<b>Vestry Duty:</b>	Ray Lewis
<b>Musician :</b>	Martha Hesse
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Kate Nameche
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> – Linda Kauppi <b>Wednesday</b> – The Wheats <b>Friday</b> – Mary Ann Ferris	

Serving the week of September 28	
<b>Chalice Bearers:</b>	Gari Voss
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Norm Richards
<b>Lectors:</b>	1. Ann Perrigo 2. Linda Kauppi 3. Ed Spicer
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Ann Perrigo
<b>Ushers:</b>	Ray Lewis
<b>Vestry Duty:</b>	Ann Perrigo
<b>Musician:</b>	Martha Hesse
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Judy Buchanan and Lynne Winters
<b>Prayers for Peace: Monday</b> – Linda Pullen <b>Wednesday</b> – Norm Richards <b>Friday</b> – Marv Voss	

Some calendar notes
<b>Monday, September 1</b> – Office and Prayers for Peace closed because of Labor Day. – New office schedule begins this week.
<b>Friday, September 5 – Saturday, September 13</b> – Booth open at the Allegan County Fair
<b>Sunday, September 7</b> – PFLAG meeting at 6 p.m. in Winchester Hall
<b>Sunday, September 21</b> – Stewardship Committee meeting at 11:30 a.m. (No Vestry meeting this month.)

THANK YOU!
Special recognition is given to Louise McDaniels and Linda Cook who have been stopping at area yard sales and bringing back gently used items to stock our Baby Closet at amazing prices. When Linda stopped at a recent sale on Allegan Dam Road and explained where the items were going the sale organizer, Dianna Hilaski, told her to take anything she wanted . . .no charge. It's amazing support like this that enables our parish to continue giving back to our community. – Ann Stough



The Episcopal  
**Church of the Good Shepherd**

101 North Walnut Street  
Allegan, MI 49010

*Please join us for worship at 9:30 a.m. Sundays*



**Almost time to  
serve pie and  
join parade . . .**

See pages 3 and 5 for details.

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

## **Consider It: Ordination of women in the Anglican Communion**

The ordination of women in the Anglican Communion has been increasingly common in certain provinces since the 1970s. Several provinces and certain dioceses, however, continue to ordain only men. Disputes over the ordination of women have contributed to the growth of conservative separatist tendencies.

**Please see more information on pages 1 and 5, and spend some time prayerfully considering this idea.**

## **Church of England says 'yes' to women as bishops**

Contact the parish office for a copy of the the full article, which was published online at [episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2014/07/14/church-of-england-says-yes-to-women-as-bishops/](http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2014/07/14/church-of-england-says-yes-to-women-as-bishops/).

The Church of England made history July 14 when its General Synod, meeting in York, approved legislation to enable women to serve as bishops, possibly by 2015.

The vote ends centuries of tradition and follows more than a decade of often-emotional debate accompanied by various stages of legislative action.

The legislation, called a measure, affirms the church's commitment to "enabling women, as well as men, to be consecrated to the office of bishop if they otherwise satisfy the requirements of Canon Law as to the person who may be consecrated as bishops."

The measure now requires approval by the U.K. Parliament and royal assent, because the legislation changes English law. Following the failure of previous legislation, some U.K. politicians bemoaned the church's decision and its drawn-out journey towards accepting women bishops. It is expected that the U.K. Parliament will take up the matter before the end of 2014, which means the first female bishop could be appointed in 2015.



*Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori was elected in 2006 as the first female Presiding Bishop in the history of the Episcopal Church and the first female primate in the Anglican Communion.*