

The Cross & Staff - June- July 2014

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

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

Marriage, the courts and the church

Love and marriage . . . go together like a horse and carriage—for those of you who are old enough—may be remembered as a popular song of the 50's. It's an institute you can't disparage the lyrics go on, this I tell ya, brother, you can't have one without the other . . .

But what if one is found to be homosexual, attracted to same sex persons, but with no attraction to the opposite sex? Does that mean that marriage is out of the question? A number of countries of the world and a number of states in the Union don't think so nor do a number of judges although the debate rages on . . . as it has for quite a few years now.

The Church has in various ways entered into the discussion—as well it should—and a wide range of opinions are represented. **The 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church** (July 2012) authorized for provisional use “under the direction and subject to the permission of the bishop exercising ecclesiastical authority” **liturgical resources for blessing same-sex relationships**. Obviously not every bishop is inclined to approve such use, but the document has some useful reflections worth sharing. These are extracted from a resource entitled *I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing*. The document begins:

All Christians are called to bear witness to the good news of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are empowered for such witness by our covenantal relationship with God.

After mention of the sacraments, it goes on:

Our covenantal life with God is expressed in relationships of commitment and faithfulness, including those of same-sex couples. It is the Church's joy to celebrate these relationships as signs of God's love, to pray for God's grace to support couples in their life together, and to join with these couples in our shared witness to the gospel in the world.

-- See “Marriage” on page 4 --

Summer read with the Bishop



Greetings!

Our Lenten reading series was such a success that we're doing it again this summer, with two very different books. The first pick is a book of spiritual journey written by a Diocesan favorite, Richard Rohr. The second one is very different, a murder mystery, as we wanted a light summer read. **(See page 5 for details about the books.)**

Remember to order them early and invite others to read along with you. We will be working on discussion questions, but we won't be splitting the reads into separate weeks, as the summer isn't always that organized. Groups and individuals will undoubtedly read them when they can.

You can read these on your own and perhaps join an online community discussion, or read it as a group. If you plan to start a group in your parish, consider having the discussion outside of your walls - the local library, coffee shop, or even after a soccer game (when you pick up Whacked, you'll see where that idea came from!).

If you have any questions or ideas, feel free to contact me! Take care and God bless,

Gennie Callard

Assistant to the Bishop for Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries (269) 381-2710



Work to update the parish directory



is beginning **This document is useful only if it lists correct information . . . So please, please, please make sure you take a few moments to review the contact information and**

special celebration dates listed for your family.



Happy Anniversary to . . .

June 3 – Bobbie and Ron Wenzel; **June 12** – Dan and Anne Brenner; **June 18** – Nicholas and Theresa Wenban; **June 30** – Father Tom and Deirdre Toeller-Novak
July 21 – Peter Corrigan and Junjuan Lai; **July 25** – Ed Spicer and Ann Perrigo;
July 28 – Steve and Jana Tibbitts and Ryan and Sheanna Zimmerman

Happy Birthday to . . .

June 1	Sandy Wheat	July 2	Dede Lewis
June 5	Amber Pettee	July 9	Blake Zimmerman
June 6	Atticus Hornback	July 14	Gari Voss Sue Squiers
June 10	Richard Krickow Daniel Meyers	July 15	Marv Voss
June 11	Linda Kauppi	July 18	Mary Brower
June 17	Mike Buese	July 21	Ann Perrigo Leah Northrup
June 26	Sherrie VanderPoel	July 24	Nicholas Wenban
June 27	Mark Zimmerman	July 25	Ed Spicer Linda Pullen
June 28	Zachary Meyers	July 29	Steve Lewis
June 30	Melissa Washburn	July 30	Matthew Zimmerman

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; the family of Ida Mallory; Mary Joan Lange; Betty Powers; Sally; Joseph; the family of David Null; Dustin; Christ Thomas; Terry; Florence; Steve and Lynne Winters; the family of Ray Baker; the family of Peg Shearer; the family of Dee Blacklock; Rachel, Evelyn and Wayne; Cassie McDaniels; Bruce Richards; Evan Jay Morey; Anne; Tome

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; Jody; Pete Wehle; Billy and Terry; Carol Hiscock; Mary Diaz; Ted Lange; Linda Ohnemus; Christine; Linda Pullen; Theresa Wenban; Ron and Gretchen Wedge; Vicki Barber; David, son of Marty Hesse; Butch Iehl; Dan and Sarah Meyers and their infant sons, Aiden, Brendon and Connor; Father Tom

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 overseas.

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.

Quick notes . . .

Women's Bible Study at First Baptist Church

A summer Bible study in the book of Colossians will be held at the First Baptist Church of Allegan. The study begins July 2 at 6:30 p.m. and continues each Wednesday in July. The only book required is your Bible. More information is available from the teacher, Betsy Davidhizar, by calling (269) 650-133 or sending an e-mail to beechpoint@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School planned at churches

Two area churches plan to host Vacation Bible School programs for children.

Immanuel Lutheran Church at 621 Grand Street will present "*Weird Animals: Where Jesus' Love Is One-of-a-Kind*" from 5:30 to 8 p.m. **June 24-26**. A light supper will be provided. More details available by calling (269) 673-3335.

Then, from **August 3-7**, volunteers at the **United Methodist Church of Allegan** will present "*Kingdom Rocks*" from 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. each night. The church is located at 409 Trowbridge Street. More details available by calling (269) 673-4236.





Annual Parish Picnic Planned

Come to 9:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, August 17 then head to Jim and Judy's cottage at Miner Lake for our annual picnic starting at noon.

Bring a dish to pass and an appetite for fun!

Meat to grill, beverage and table service provided.

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

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!

Good Shepherd provides space to several community groups

There is more and more activity within the walls of Good Shepherd as a number of community groups use space to provide varied outreach programs.

These programs include both the Community Closet and the Baby Closet that the parish operates. Volunteers open the Community Closet from 2 to 5 p.m. each Tuesday and 9 a.m. to noon each Friday. Anyone who needs clothing is welcome to stop in during those times. Donations of gently used clothing – especially items for men and children – also will be accepted during these times. Volunteers with the Baby Closet distribute layettes on an as-needed basis to families who contact the church office.

But there are an increasing number of area groups that also rent space within the church to hold their meetings, including:

- **Alcoholic Anonymous** – One group gathers in the upstairs meeting space at noon each Tuesday and another group gathers there at 8 p.m. each Thursday.
- **Catholic Charities of West Michigan** – Counselors from this group meet with clients individually and in groups from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. each Tuesday in Winchester Hall and the upstairs meeting space.
- **Narcotics Anonymous** – There is a group that gathers in Winchester Hall at 4 p.m. Sundays and three other groups that gather at 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. All four groups meet in Winchester Hall.
- **PFLAG** – This support group for Parents, Families, Friends and Allies united with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals meets at 6 p.m. the first Sunday of each month in Winchester Hall.

Vestry members have agreed that allowing these groups to use space within our facilities not only helps individuals participating in these programs but also draws people into our church and generates rental income. Please try to schedule parish activities so they don't interfere with these ongoing programs. **Even more importantly, however, please make every effort to share God's love and grace with anyone you meet using our church space.**

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-- "Marriage" continued from page 1 --

Then it offers themes for theological reflection and spiritual practice which include:

Vocation: *God calls people into various kinds of relationship, whether as single people, in monastic communities, or as intimate couples. These vocational callings can empower our witness to the gospel. The decision to enter into a covenantal union is a vocation marked by these characteristics: "fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God."*

Households: *Covenantal relationships are often lived in households in which we practice daily the giving of ourselves for the good of another. While households take many different forms, they create a space of mutual trust and accountability. The joy, intimacy, and shared vulnerability of households can thus help us learn the spiritual disciplines of compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation in lives of committed monogamy and fidelity.*

Fruitfulness: *The divine grace that sustains a covenantal relationship bears fruit in countless ways, not only for the couple but for the wider community as well. Covenantal couples manifest this grace in their shared gifts for ministry and in lives of service, generosity, and hospitality.*

Mutual Blessing: *A blessed relationship is set apart for a divine purpose: to bear witness to the creating, redeeming, and sanctifying love of God in the world. As the Spirit empowers the couple for this witness, the Church is likewise blessed and strengthened for its mission and ministry.*

*In all these ways and more, the blessing of a same-sex relationship invites the couple and the whole Church to renew our commitment to the Baptismal Covenant. That commitment is expressed by **faith** in the good news of Jesus Christ, in the **hope** for union with God that Christ promised, and with the **love** that knits us together as the Body of Christ. As the apostle Paul says, we live our life together as God's people with faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13).*

May your reflections on these themes be fruitful! (Your feedback would be appreciated. Thank you.)

Tom +



Photo courtesy of Jim Kauppi

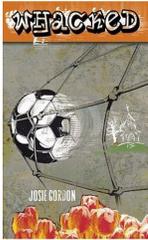
Meeting in the Stanley Moffett Library after it was formally blessed in May are, counterclockwise from left, Ann Stough, Ray Lewis, Ann Perrigo, Judy Buchanan, Mike Buese, Gari Voss, Kandi Gibson, Norm Richards, Father Thomas Toeller-Novak and Wendy Simmons.

Stanley Moffett Library formally blessed by parish

A parish dream became reality on Sunday, May 18, when Father Thomas Toeller-Novak and members of the Good Shepherd parish formally dedicated the new library space upstairs. Through the years, many people helped foster a dream to create the space to accommodate a book collection donated years ago by Stanley Moffett. Engraved plaques soon will be hang outside the space acknowledging memorial contributions that helped fund the project and those who helped physically complete the work. By late July, work to create a nice meeting space outside the library should also be finished. Take a moment to check out the new spaces.



Read along with the Bishop – Summer 2014



Whacked by Josie Gordon

A cozy mystery that takes place in a conservative midwestern town with the local Episcopal priest playing the part of sleuth. Josie Gordon is the pen name of one of our own - Beth Trembley from Grace, Holland. Join us in the fun summer read!

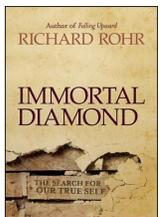
Description from Goodreads:

There are things they don't tell you in seminary. Lonnie Squires is certain that if she'd been warned that her calling could lead to death by clog dancing, she'd remember.

One little day of perfection--it hadn't seemed like that much to ask. Scrub up Middelburg to look morally upright and conservatively righteous for one little day. A rabid devotion to soccer and marshalling children in her day care center has given Lonnie drill sergeant skills. She believes she can take on this assignment from the Bishop and survive a summer enjoying the Wentelteefjes and Olliebollen of her home town. It's not as if her girlfriend will miss her.

She expects politicians, parishioners and the general populace all to want a piece of the action--and of her, if anything goes wrong. But nothing will go wrong. Then the crusading reporter intent on exposing the secrets of those behind Family Values Day turns up dead, and Lonnie's one little day turns into one big nightmare.

Is the killer the politician using anti-gay sentiment to line her campaign coffers? The ultra-conservative software king who wants to quarter his company in the idyllic Middelburg? Someone with secrets about to be exposed? Or, more urgently, is it the same person who now wants Lonnie dead as well?



Immortal Diamond - by Richard Rohr

Dissolve the distractions of ego to find our authentic selves in God

Description is from Goodreads:

In his bestselling book *Falling Upward*, Richard Rohr talked about ego (or the False Self) and how it gets in the way of spiritual maturity. But if there's a False Self, is there also a True Self? What is it? How is it found? Why does it matter? And what does it have to do with the spiritual journey? This book likens True Self to a diamond, buried deep within us, formed under the intense pressure of our lives, that must be searched for, uncovered, separated from all the debris of ego that surrounds it. In a sense True Self must, like Jesus, be resurrected, and that process is not resuscitation but transformation.

Immortal Diamond (whose title is taken from a line in a Gerard Manley Hopkins poem) explores the deepest questions of identity, spirituality, and meaning in Richard Rohr's inimitable style.

Use these books – and the ideas presented in them – to make some new connections.

- Journal (with words or images) as you reflect on the daily message.
- Join the diocesan on-line discussion.
On Goodreads --
<https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/123877-episcopal-diocese-of-western-michigan>
On Facebook –
Join the EDWM Read Along with the Bishop. (It's an open group.)
- Send a copy of the book to shut-ins. Send them, through the mail, weekly discussion questions.
- Organize a reading group, inviting people from the community. If the group meets after church on Sundays, you may also want to have something on a weeknight and invite people who aren't members. These are both programs that could connect with a "seeking" or "unchurch" person.
- Ask parishioners to purchase two copies of the book, and give one (as a gift) to a friend, neighbor or family member. Include a bookmark with the dates, time and location of the weekly discussion
- Donate copies of the books, after you're done, to the library with a sticker saying it comes from an EDWM a book discussion and where they can find details about future "Read with the Bishop" programs.



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 June 1

Chalice Bearer:	Kate Nameche
Crucifer:	Ray Lewis
Lectors:	1. Linda Kauppi 2. Sue Buese 3. Ed Spicer
Altar Guild:	Gari Voss
Usher:	Norm Richards
Vestry Duty:	Judy Buchanan
Musician:	Martha Meek
Coffee Hour:	Gari Voss
Prayers for Peace: Monday –Betty Miner Wednesday – Norm Richards Friday –Mary Ann Ferris	

Serving the week of June 8 Pentecost

Chalice Bearer:	Ray Lewis
Crucifer:	Gari Voss
Lectors:	1. Sue Buese 2. Judy Buchanan 3. Norm Richards
Altar Guild:	Dede Lewis
Ushers:	Jim Wendt
Vestry Duty:	Mike Buese
Musician:	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	Gretchen Wedge and Mary Joan Lange
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Linda Pullen Wednesday –Jim Wheat Friday – Marv Voss	

Serving the week of June 15 Trinity Sunday & Fathers' Day

Chalice Bearer:	Morning Prayer
Crucifer:	
Lectors:	1. Jan Meyers 2. Ken Mills 3. Ed Spicer
Altar Guild:	Morning Prayer
Ushers:	Betty Miner
Vestry Duty:	Kandi Gibson
Musician:	
Coffee Hour:	
Prayers for Peace: Monday –Lynne Winters Wednesday – Norm Richards Friday – Mary Ann Ferris	

Serving the week of June 22

Chalice Bearers:	Judy Buchanan
Crucifer:	Norm Richards
Lectors:	1. Ed Spicer 2. Linda Kauppi 3. Ann Perrigo
Altar Guild:	Lynne Winters
Ushers:	Kandi Gibson
Vestry Duty:	Ann Perrigo
Musician:	
Coffee Hour:	Judy Wendt
Prayers for Peace: Monday –Linda Kauppi Wednesday – Linda Kauppi Friday – Marv Voss	

Serving the week of June 29

Chalice Bearer:	Gari Voss
Crucifer:	Ray Lewis
Lectors:	1. Jan Meyers 2. Ann Perrigo 3. Wendy Simmons
Altar Guild:	Linda Pullen
Ushers:	Norm Richards
Vestry Duty:	Ray Lewis
Musician:	
Coffee Hour:	Lynne Winters
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Betty Miner Wednesday – Norm Richards Friday – CLOSED for 4 th of July	

Some calendar notes

Sunday, June 1 – PFLAG meeting at 6 p.m.
Sunday, June 8 – Vestry meeting at 11:30 a.m.
Sunday, June 15 – Morning Prayer because Father
Tom on vacation. There will no Adult
Forum @ 11:10 a.m.

Tuesdays – Please use the basement entrance to
enter the Community Closet and the garden
entrance to enter the parish office,
sanctuary, and upstairs and basement areas
as Catholic Charities of West Michigan uses
Winchester Hall for counseling sessions



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 July 6	
Chalice Bearer:	Kate Nameche
Crucifer:	Norm Richards
Lectors:	1. Wendy Simmons 2. Jan Meyers 3. Ed Spicer
Altar Guild:	Lynne Winters
Ushers:	Jim Wendt
Vestry Duty:	Norm Richards
Musician:	Martha Meek
Coffee Hour:	Lewis / Burza families
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Linda Pullen Wednesday -- Linda Kauppi Friday – Marv Voss	

Serving the week of July 13	
Chalice Bearer:	Judy Buchanan
Crucifer:	Marv Voss
Lectors:	1. Gari Voss 2. Ken Mills 3. Judy Buchanan
Altar Guild:	Dede Lewis
Ushers:	Betty Miner
Vestry Duty:	Wendy Simmons
Musician:	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	Betty Miner
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Lynne Winters Wednesday – Norm Richards Friday – Mary Ann Ferris	

Serving the week of July 20	
Chalice Bearer	Kate Nameche
Crucifer:	Gari Voss
Lectors:	1. Judy Buchanan 2. Norm Richards 3. Linda Kauppi
Altar Guild:	Kandi Gibson
Ushers:	Ray Lewis
Vestry Duty:	Judy Buchanan
Musician :	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Linda Kauppi Wednesday – Linda Kauppi Friday – Marv Voss	

Serving the week of July 27	
Chalice Bearers:	Norm Richards
Crucifer:	Ray Lewis
Lectors:	1. Jan Meyers 2. Ed Spicer 3. Ann Perrigo
Altar Guild:	Ann Perrigo
Ushers:	Kandi Gibson
Vestry Duty:	Mike Buese
Musician:	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Betty Miner Wednesday –The Wheats Friday – Mary Ann Ferris	

Some calendar notes	
Sunday, July 6 – PFLAG meeting at 6 p.m.	
Friday, July 11 – Carpet being laid in upstairs meeting room	
Saturday, July 12 –Baby shower for Jess Knoepke and family hosted by the ECW at noon in Winchester Hall	
Sunday, July 13 – Vestry meeting at 11:30 a.m.	
Sunday, July 20 – Adult Forum @ 11:10 a.m.	
Wednesday, July 23 – Pie baking at 6 p.m.	
Wednesday, July 30 – Pie baking at 6 p.m.	

Golf outing to benefit Sylvia's Place	
Women's Open at Shamrock Hills Golf Course	
Friday, July 25 9 a.m. shotgun start	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ \$40 per person includes 18 holes of golf with cart, hole events and 50/50 drawing. ◆ Potluck after the outing. Each team asked to provide 2 dishes to share. 	
All proceeds support Sylvia's Place.	
See Kandi Gibson for more information.	



Preparations starting for annual fair booth

Believe it or not . . . the hot days of summer soon will give way to the cool days of fall and the Allegan County Fair. So it's time to start preparing to stock and staff our fair food booth that opens Friday, September 5 and continues through Saturday, September 6.



Efforts to organize this year's booth – which will help our parish fund many activities – can't be done by just a few people. Help is needed from everyone for the event to be successful. Here are some ways you can get involved:

- ✓ Purchase seasonal fruit and prepare it for the pie baking brigade. Clean the fruit and tuck it in sealed storage bags in the church freezer. We need fruit to make (20) rhubarb, (25) strawberry rhubarb, (30) blueberry, (15) red raspberry, (15) black raspberry, (30) cherry, (35) peach, (30) apple and (35) Dutch apple pies.
- ✓ Jot the pie making sessions on your calendar and then attend. Volunteers will start at 6 p.m. each Wednesday from July 23 through August 27. Getting more hands involved will make the work go more quickly.
- ✓ Watch in late August for the sign-up sheets to cover a shift or two in the booth.

Have questions? Please see Wendy Simmons or Carol Hiscock to help with pie preparations, and Kandi Gibson to help with booth preparations or to volunteer during the fair.



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



Upstairs projects progress
See page 4 for details.

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