

The Cross & Staff - March 2014

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

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



How will you walk through this Holy season as we prepare for the joy of Easter?

There are many ways to make Lent more meaningful. When I was young, I thought that Lent meant you had to give up chocolate. Not being a big chocolate person, this seemed a rather painless proposition. Then my priest explained that it was more important to take on a good habit which would bring me closer the God and the life of Christ. Well, this took a lot more thought. The following is just one suggestion for taking on something new for Lent, but it may fit your Lenten meditations because you already use the Forward Day by Day. Each day in Lent, the Forward gives a verse from the day's Daily Office. This verse is followed with a short meditation.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

Book of Common Prayer page 265

During Lent, you might consider taking your Bible and reading the entire passage that contains this verse. You will find the listing of the scripture at the bottom of the page. In bold type, they list the Psalm, Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel readings for the day. I would suggest that you choose one set of readings and follow them all the way through Lent. You might want to read the Old Testament Readings which basically follow Genesis and Exodus, or the New Testament Readings which follow I Corinthians, or the Gospel Readings which follow John.

Did you ever wonder where these reading came from? Hint: your Prayer Book. For Lent, the scripture readings for the Daily Office begin on page 953. When you turn to this page, you will find the Week of 1 Lent at the top of the page, and the Week of 2 Lent beginning in the middle. But wait! On page 952, it says the same thing! If you look along the bottom of the pages, page 952 says Daily Office Year One and page 953 says Daily Office Year Two. How do you know which Year to use? Well, odd number years follow Year One, and even numbered years follow Year Two.

However you choose to enhance your life during Lent, I pray that you try something new. Maybe, you will find a friend, or two, with whom to share what you read, or you might decide to read passages over the phone with someone. Do not feel guilty if you miss a day. Enjoy your time with God!

Gari Voss



A Lenten Response

The Episcopal Relief Fund helps make communities stronger and helps the underserved, including women, people with disabilities and children and families affected by HIV/AIDS achieve long-term economic stability. You can help in two ways during Lent:

1. Forego an expensive coffee or lunch and put the money you would have spent in the cup. At the end of Lent, we will gather the 'pence cups' for the Episcopal Relief Fund.
2. Follow the Lenten meditations in the Episcopal Relief Fund booklet. Accept this opportunity to encounter Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Judy Buchanan

Read along with the Bishop

Walking Home: From Eden to Emmaus

A short book by Margaret Gunther who wrote about prayer practices for the new Church's Teaching Series.

Read along with the chapters recommended by the Diocese and join an on-line conversation at Goodreads: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/123877-episcopal-diocese-of-western-michigan>

You can also join the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/545885628842>

Happy Anniversary to . . .



March 26 – Todd and Debbie Holubar

April 1 – Don and Trish Morris; April 7 – Gretchen and Ron Wedge; April 15 – Jim and Judy Wendt; April 30 – Betty and Gladwin Miner

Happy Birthday to . . .

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|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| March 4 | Ryan Krickow
Parker Stout | April 1 | Kyle Simmons |
| March 7 | Jim Pyle
Robert Cornell | April 7 | Margot Rolfe |
| March 8 | Ron Wedge | April 9 | Judy Wendt |
| March 11 | Nathan Tibbitts | April 10 | Devyn Morris |
| March 14 | Judy Buchanan
Pam Sinden | April 18 | Ken Mills
Kevin Schipper |
| March 17 | Sarah Myers | April 19 | Delora Andrus |
| March 18 | Evie Keck
Martha Hesse | April 21 | Pam Iehl |
| March 21 | John Iehl | April 24 | Lynsey Ferris |
| March 27 | Father Tom Toeller-
Novak | | |
| March 28 | Ray Lewis | | |

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.

Quick notes . . .

Allegan Library to host four science-themed book discussions

The Allegan District Library was awarded a National Science Foundation grant to engage adults in a series of science-themed book discussions called **“Pushing the Limits.”** The discussions will focus **March 20** on survival; **April 17** on connections; **May 15** on knowledge and **June 19** on nature. All programs start at 7 p.m. More details about the selected books and the programs are posted on the community bulletin board.

“A Grand Dialogue in Science and Religion”

An inter-institutional, interdisciplinary, and inter-faith exploration of science and religion is slated during a conference Saturday, April 12, at the Grand Valley State University campus at 401 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids. The keynote speaker is Alvin Plantinga, PhD. More details are posted on the community bulletin board.

Benefit Concerts

There will be no benefit concert held at the First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, 200 Cutler Street, in April. The series will include Root Doctor with Freddie Cunningham in concert June 8 to benefit the Renewed Hope Health Clinic.

Prayers recently requested for:

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

Jim Joyce; John; Kay Zimmerman; the family and friends of Cheri Pomeroy; Rhonda; Jim Pyle; David, son of Marty Hesse; Matt Myers; Joe McDaniel; Butch Iehl; Brent Larson; the family of Wanda Lange; Daniel and Sarah Meyers and their sons, Aiden Michael, Brendon Daniel and Connor Alan; the family of Helena Garlock

Please continue to pray for:

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

Kate Nameche; Fran; Gary and Suzanne; Denise; the Hammock and Burke families; Vicki; Lois; Madison; Rosemary; Jody; Pete Wehle; Billy and Terry; Carol Hiscock; Steve and Lynne Winters; Mary Diaz; Ted Lange; Linda Ohnemus; Christine; Linda Pullen; Theresa Wenban; Joan Nameche; Ron and Gretchen Wedge; Vicki Barber; Ken Mills

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 continues to effectively channel our prayers.



What's a Bishop to be?

Bishop Wayne Hougland celebrated Eucharist with us on January 5, joining us at the hospitality hour in Winchester Hall and meeting with the Vestry shortly thereafter. It was a rather informal visit –just getting to know each other a little better without any formal agenda. *(We were the first parish to be visited by Bishop Hougland in the new year and, Father Tom notes that he was pleased with how the occasion went.)*



It was, however, a good time to reflect on the ministry of Bishops and on our relationship with the episcopate in years past. The notion of an “overseer” goes back to the earliest days of the Christian Church and it has taken out various forms in different places and at different times. Without attempting a comprehensive summary of the episcopal ministry, I would like to offer a couple of observations and suggest it would be wise to do some discussion of the subject.

For many centuries (at least in the Western Church), Bishops had a prominent role in the leadership of the Church and also in the State. The Church-State separation that we take (almost) for granted in our country was not the usual pattern in the centuries preceding the American Revolution. And in the Anglican/Episcopal Tradition we find styles of exercising the office that reflect development as well as regional differences. You may recall our video used during Lent in 2011 that pictured bishops prostrate with miters that resembled crocodile mouths—not a flattering image. “Lordly Bishops” were scorned by many with fiercely egalitarian convictions.

For some years, the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America was described as “congregational” in practice with bishops exercising a very limited role. In reaction to this approach, many dioceses functioned with bishops that exercised more actual power and authority. Our own diocese has seen both models function at different times and Western Michigan Episcopalians exhibiting various attitudes along the spectrum of convictions.

All of which is to suggest that the ministry of Bishops is highly relational and capable of evolution and adaptation. Like clergy in parishes, bishops are also influenced (not to say “formed”) by many factors including their relationships with the flock.

We are at the beginning of a new episcopate in Western Michigan and should be praying for wisdom to exercise our own ministries with the bishop in a way that is without suspicion or fear. The name of our community of faith—The Episcopal Church—suggests that we have a special appreciation of the ministry of bishop, one that we embrace in faith and perseverance.

Bishops link us with the larger church, the communion of saints both living and dead. They keep us from becoming mired “in our own backyard” and remind us of the Tradition that has been generated by believers in ages past.

I look forward with eager anticipation to discover where the Spirit will lead us all in this new chapter of our history as the Diocese of Western Michigan. Let us pray that we will respond wisely and enthusiastically.



Treasurer's Corner

Welcome to the memorable winter of 2013-14. As well as all of us at home, this winter has put added pressure on our limited parish resources. As I indicated before, our pledging for 2014 is down from last year because some people moved and others reduced their pledges because of personal changes.

Good Shepherd also has experienced additional expenses because of this winter weather. Our gas bill for January was more than \$1,900, and we spent more than \$1,200 to isolate and repair a boiler line serving the Community Closet space because a water line broke.

The result is it would help if you could either advance your pledge or contribute an additional amount. It will be most appreciated.

We also need to give Jim Wendt a big thank you for his snow removal work. Of necessity, he has been working our old snow blower extra hard this year. Hopefully, spring will be here soon.

Norm Richards, Treasurer

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

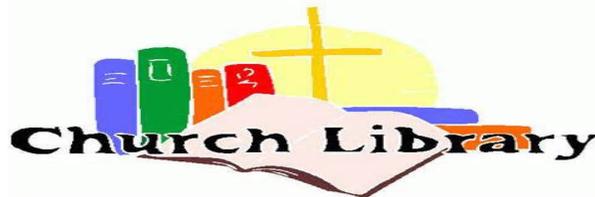
Norm Richards

Clerk of the Vestry

Gari Voss

Assistant Clerks of the Vestry

Judy Buchanan
Wendy Simmons



Thanks to many volunteers and much work the new library space above Winchester Hall is now comfortably furnished and being used.

Now, our parish would like to formally bless space during a special service on Sunday, May 18. Please plan to join us in this celebration.

Delegates prepare for 140th annual Diocesan Convention May 2-3

Vestry members have appointed Kandi Gibson and Ann Perrigo to represent Good Shepherd – along with Father Tom – during the annual convention Traverse City. (In case neither can attend, Norm Richards and Linda Kauppi will serve as alternates.) Please see them for info about what issues will be considered.

Quick notes . . .

Appreciation offered for musical accompaniment

Special thanks is offered Stephanie Baird and Holly Quist for providing excellent musical accompaniment during Sunday Eucharists while Marty Hesse was traveling. We also offer thanks to Gari Voss for all her recruitment, “coaching” and transportation efforts.

Vestry meeting and planning dates slated

Vestry members will hold a special meeting meet on Sunday, April 6, to work on developing parish goals, and then hold their regular meeting on Sunday, April 13. In May, the Vestry will shift their regular meeting to Sunday, May 18, so it doesn't conflict with Mothers' Day and the celebration of Good Shepherd Sunday.

Grand Dialogue in Science, Religion scheduled

Alvin Plantinga, who was described in *TIME* magazine as “America's leading philosopher of God” will deliver a keynote address about “Religion and Science: Where the Conflict Really Lies” during the Grand Dialogue in Science and Religion annual conference 2014. The free event is Saturday, April 12 at GVSU Loosemore Auditorium on Fulton Street starting at 9 a.m. Registration info is at www.GrandDialogue.org or (616) 331-5702.

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For a Lenten discipline, you might wish to follow the practice of saying the Daily Offices each day. There is a small book called Hour by Hour that takes the reader through the four main offices (Morning Prayer, Noon Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline) for each day of the week. Everything you need is here—scriptures and prayers—for four short devotional services for a week. Then you start over again! The books are lovely and feel just right in your hand. They can be purchased from ForwardMovement.com for \$17.95 (product #1714)—OR you can order from Amazon.com for your Kindle for only \$6.99! If you decide to try this, you won't be making a major time commitment—each of these Offices takes less than five minutes to complete. Time well spent!

Ann Perrigo

Recommended by
Bishop Hougland:

A Lenten video series

Love Life:

Living the Gospel of Love

From Cowley, the Society of
St. John the Evangelist

The producers say: “We’ve called the series ‘Love Life’ because this is the profound message we find in John’s Gospel: an invitation to deeper, more abundant life in Christ. This Gospel helps us, as individuals and as a community, to love our life and to live lives of love. . . .”

This free series is being posted daily at www.ssJE.org/lovelife. You can also visit www.SSJE.org/word and sign up to have the videos automatically delivered to your inbox each morning.



**2014 Episcopal Youth Camp
Diocese of Western Michigan**

The Episcopal Youth Camp in the Diocese of Western Michigan strives to continue to be a pivotal part of the formation of the young people in our Diocese. We work together to form a Christian Community as we play & pray, sing & share, and we look outside ourselves with our yearly outreach project. We invite young people into a deeper relationship with each other and with God.

Senior Camp -- June 15-21 for those entering grades 9 to 12

Middle Camp -- August 3-9 for those entering grades 6 to 8

Junior Camp -- August 10-16 for those entering grades 3 to 5

Register before April 21 and the cost is \$325 per camper. After that, cost is \$375 per camper.

More details at www.epsicoaplyouthcamp.org

Thank You!



As my term on the Vestry is ending, along with serving this Parish as Junior Warden, I am taking this opportunity to thank all of you for your assistance given so freely whenever and for

whatever I asked for in maintaining and usage of our beautiful building and grounds. I hope I have told each of you how much your efforts have been appreciated, but if I ever failed to do so it was oversight on my part. This is a wonderful church family and the wider community of Allegan is the better for having Good Shepherd and its parishioners doing all that is done to serve. Thank you for all that you do, have done, and so willingly will do in the days ahead.

Linda Kauppi



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 March 2

Chalice Bearer:	Kate Nameche
Crucifer:	Ray Lewis
Lectors:	1. Sue Buese 2. Jan Meyers 3. Wendy Simmons
Altar Guild:	Kandi Gibson
Usher:	Norm Richards
Musician:	Martha Meek
Coffee Hour:	Jan Meyers
Prayers for Peace: Monday — ___ Wednesday — Norm Richards Friday —Marv Voss	

Serving the week of March 9 First Sunday of Lent

Chalice Bearer:	Ray Lewis
Crucifer:	Norm Richards
Lectors:	1. Ed Spicer 2. Gari Voss 3. Judy Buchanan
Altar Guild:	Ann Perrigo
Ushers:	Jim Wendt
Vestry Duty:	
Musician:	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	Betty Miner
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Lynne Winters Wednesday – _____ Friday – _____	

Serving the week of March 16 Second Sunday of Lent

Chalice Bearer:	Kate Nameche
Crucifer:	Marv Voss
Lectors:	1. Jan Meyers 2. Ken Mills 3. Ed Spicer
Altar Guild:	Lynne Winters
Ushers:	Betty Miner
Vestry Duty:	Judy Buchanan
Musician:	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	The Lewis family
Prayers for Peace: Monday —Betty Miner Wednesday — Norm Richards Friday —Marv Voss	

Serving the week of March 23 Third Sunday of Lent

Chalice Bearers:	Gari Voss
Crucifer:	Ray Lewis
Lectors:	1. Wendy Simmons 2. Kandi Gibson 3. Norm Richards
Altar Guild:	Gari Voss
Ushers:	Kandi Gibson
Vestry Duty:	Ray Lewis
Musician:	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	Ann Perrigo and Ed Spicer
Prayers for Peace: Monday – _____ Wednesday – _____ Friday – Mary Ann Ferris	

Serving the week of March 30 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Chalice Bearer:	Norm Richards
Crucifer:	Gari Voss
Lectors:	1. Ann Perrigo 2. Ed Spicer 3. Wendy Simmons
Altar Guild:	Kandi Gibson
Ushers:	Jim Wendt
Vestry Duty:	Kandi Gibson
Musician:	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	Lynne Winters
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Lynne Winters Wednesday – Norm Richards Friday – Marv Voss	

Some calendar notes

Sunday, March 9 – Vestry meeting
Wednesday, March 12 – Lenten supper program at 6 p.m.
Sunday, March 16 – Adult Forum @ 11:10 a.m. with Marty Hesse sharing travel tales
Wednesday, March 19 – Lenten supper program at 6 p.m.
Sunday, March 23 – Martha Meek student recital at 3 p.m.
Wednesday, March 26 – Lenten supper program at 6 p.m.
Friday, March 28 -- Parish office closed.



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 April 6 Fifth Sunday of Lent	
Chalice Bearer:	Kate Nameche
Crucifer:	Norm Richards
Lectors:	1. Gari Voss 2. Sue Buese 3. Kandi Gibson
Altar Guild:	Mary Ann Ferris
Ushers:	Ray Lewis
Vestry Duty:	Norm Richards
Musician:	Martha Meek
Coffee Hour:	Mary Joan Lange & Gretchen Wedge
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Betty Miner Wednesday -- The Wheats Friday – Mary Ann Ferris	

Serving the week of April 13 Palm Sunday	
Chalice Bearer:	Judy Buchanan
Crucifer:	Marv Voss
Lectors:	1. Kandi Gibson 2. Linda Kauppi 3. Wendy Simmons
Altar Guild:	Dede Lewis
Ushers:	Norm Richards
Vestry Duty:	Ray Lewis
Musician:	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Lynne Winters Wednesday – Norm Richards Friday – Marv Voss	

Serving the week of April 20 Easter Sunday	
Chalice Bearer	Kate Nameche
Crucifer:	Judy Buchanan
Lectors:	1. Linda Kauppi 2. Ken Mills 3. Ed Spicer
Altar Guild:	ALL members
Ushers:	Betty Miner
Vestry Duty:	Wendy Simmons
Musician :	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Linda Pullen Wednesday – The Wheats Friday – _____	

Serving the week of April 27	
Chalice Bearers:	Ray Lewis
Crucifer:	Marv Voss
Lectors:	1. Jan Meyers 2. Ann Perrigo 3. Linda Kauppi
Altar Guild:	Linda Pullen
Ushers:	Jim Wendt
Vestry Duty:	Judy Buchanan
Musician:	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	Chuck and Linda Pullen
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Linda Kauppi Wednesday – Linda Kauppi Friday – Marv Voss	

Some calendar notes
Wednesday, April 2 – Lenten supper program at 6 p.m.
Sunday, April 6 – Vestry goal setting meeting
Wednesday, April 9 – Lenten supper program at 6 p.m.
Sunday, April 13 – Vestry regular meeting
Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday service
Friday, April 18 – Good Friday with a procession from downtown followed by the stations of the cross at noon and worship at 7 p.m.
Sunday, May 11 – Good Shepherd Sunday / Mothers' Day
Sunday, May 18 – Vestry meeting and blessing of the upstairs library

Lenten self-examination by Father Tom
It has been my custom to invite feedback from people in the parish I currently serve during the Lenten season. It provides an opportunity for the congregation to reflect on what the parish would like to have in its pastor--something that will be useful in planning the future. In addition it assists me in my process of evaluating our ministry together. I would be grateful if you took some time to get an evaluation form from Winchester Hall and shared your thoughts. Thank you in advance for your help. <i>ttu</i>



Lent

JOIN US AS WE WALK WITH CHRIST DURING THIS HOLIEST OF SEASONS

- ◆ Gather with others each Wednesday from March 12 through April 9. There will be a soup and bread supper, discussion led by Father Tom about forgiveness and compline. *(Check the sign-up sheet in Winchester Hall to see if you can help provide food.)*
- ◆ Set aside time during Lent to practice spiritual discipline and reflection. For some ideas from others, please see page 1.
- ◆ Prepare to order Easter flowers in memory of and to honor loved ones. The orders will be due by Sunday, April 6.
- ◆ Plan to participate in Holy Week events, including a Seder service at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Wednesday, April 16 *(more details soon)* and a Maundy Thursday service here. On Good Friday, there will be a Good Friday procession through downtown Allegan starting at noon followed by Stations of the Cross in our sanctuary and a 7 p.m. service.



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



What's a Bishop to be?
See page 3 for ideas.

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