

The Cross & Staff - October 2013

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

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

Hanging out with sinners . . .



The Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying: "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So it has been since the beginning of the movement we call Christianity. Jesus welcomes us and eats with us. He searches us out and touches our lives . . . in spite of ourselves. . . in spite of our sinfulness. And that for most of us is incredibly good news.

God's message and acts of love and forgiveness by their very nature unite people and create community which ultimately seeks expression in tangible ways. It has tended over the centuries to create institutions that challenge and assist us to tune in to what God is saying. Institutions and activities that help us to overcome the resistance we find in our world and in our souls to embrace truth, appreciate beauty, and live in love.

All of us know that God's Spirit is not dependent on Church buildings or even organized religion to inspire and form the human spirit. There are many any varied ways in which God has spoken to our ancestors in ages past and many and varied ways in which God continues to speak to our contemporaries. But we are spirit and body and our lives play out in embodied, organized ways.

Churches, Mosques, Synagogues, Temples, Shrines exist everywhere to call us sinners to an awareness of God's wonderful works and to live lives of gratitude. They are a call to repentance. They are a call to prayer. They are an invitation to accept the gift of joy and wonder in all God's works.

But sadly enough they are filled and maintained by human beings, human beings who fall short of perfection. One of my favorite stories is one told of Bishop James Pike who was encountered by a woman who insisted she could never join his Church because it was "filled with sinners". Not so Madame, the Bishop replied with a smile, there is always room for one more.

-- Please see "Only Human" on page 5 --

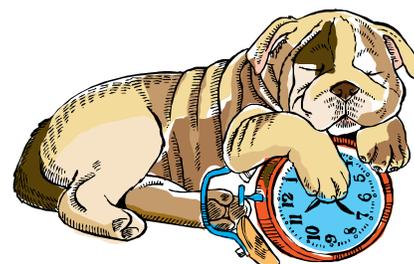
Nominations sought for Vestry seats

A vacant seat exists on the Vestry after Susan Squiers Frank resigned to move with her new husband, Stephen, to New Jersey.

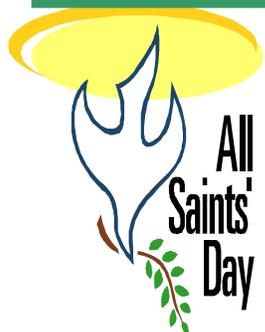
Sue was slated to serve through 2015. Whoever is named to fill the vacant seat would be eligible to seek reelection to the position.

Meanwhile, Vestry also is starting the process to identify parish members interested in being elected to fill terms that expire in January.

If you know someone you would like to see on Vestry, please pass the name to one of the current Vestry members.



Daylight-Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 3



A special service is planned on Sunday, November 3, to honor the memory of loved ones who have passed.

Everyone is invited to place photographs and other mementos about the nave reminding us of departed loved ones. Items may be placed any time after Sunday, October 27.

A special prayer will be offered, naming departed loved ones. To include the name of someone special, please leave a note or e-mail Sharon before Wednesday, October 30.

Happy Anniversary to . . .



October 24 – Dan and Sarah Meyers; **October 30** – Jeff and Wendy Simmons
November 16 – Jim and Cindy Pyle; **November 18** – James and Christine Driscoll; **November 20** – Linda and Don Hausserman

Happy Birthday to . . .

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| October 3 Daniela Corrigan | November 2 Beth Wheat |
| October 4 Martha Meek | David Ferris |
| October 7 Kristofer Morris | November 5 Jun Juan Lai |
| Don Hausserman | November 6 Larry Nameche |
| October 9 Chuck Pullen | November 8 Annie Sprague |
| October 12 Paul Keck | November 10 Luke Voss |
| October 13 Jim Joyce | November 13 Al Barney |
| October 15 Imani Sprague | November 14 Carrie Lewis |
| October 17 Nanette (Voss) Herlihy | November 16 Wendy Simmons |
| October 18 Theresa Gray | November 25 Kathryn Mankin |
| October 20 Elizabeth Meyers | Jim Kauppi |
| October 22 Peter Corrigan | November 27 Matt Burza |
| October 25 Brian Spaulding | Deirdre Toeller-Novak |
| October 27 Susan Buese | November 28 Ron Wenzel |
| October 29 Lisa Keck Neal | |
| October 29 Jay Bortz | |
| Linda Hausserman | |

Quick notes . . .

Free mammograms available in October on Pink Saturdays

A community collaboration of healthcare organizations in southwest Michigan will make free mammograms available at 18 facilities, including Allegan General plus Borgess and Bronson affiliates, during October. The screening mamms will be don on all Saturdays in October and some weekdays. Uninsured women age 40+ should call (800) 873-0649 to determine eligibility. A physician's referral is not necessary. Any needed follow-up services also will be arranged and provided.

Health Ministry event to focus on dementia

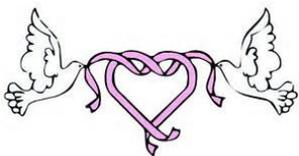
A conference about the faith community's role in helping people respond to dementia is slated. Saturday, October 19 by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan Health Ministry. The program will be from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal in Grand Rapids. More information is found on the diocesan info board.

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

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You can also mark special occasions by sponsoring the altar flowers, bell ringings and/ or the sanctuary lamp. Details on the parish bulletin board.

Congratulations . . . and good luck!



Congratulations and thanks are in order for **Dr. Susan Squiers** who has recently married **Stephen Frank**.

They are moving East because of Stephen's new job.

Susan, as you know, has been an active member of Good Shepherd for many years. She has served on Vestry, helped with reading programs at the jail and organized trick-or-treat hospitality on Halloween, Christmas caroling and an MS support group. Her departure will leave a gap in our ministry but we rejoice with her as she and Stephen plan a future together.

(If you are interested in assuming responsibility for any of the program Sue helped with, please leave word in the office.)

M.I.A. –I think I lent a **video** sketching out the early **history of the Episcopal Church** (in this country). I can't remember to whom it was lent. If you happen to have it, I could currently use it. Thanks.

tn

Benefit concerts resume

First Presbyterian Church is resuming its monthly benefit concert series the second Sunday of each month. At 5 p.m. October 13, a blues group will perform with donations to benefit the Regent Theatre.

Look how our parishioners and friends are making a difference . . .

by showing extra effort!

Several people have been “caught” going above and beyond the call of duty recently. **Nan Vincent** has been noticed consistently demonstrating kindness and compassion while helping Community Closet clients and working with other



volunteers. **Ron Wenzel** has helped run a wide variety of errands and given rides to people stranded in Allegan.

Sharon Carper has put in extra time and effort

helping the ECW with a variety of special projects. Thank you to each of them for helping remind us that even the little things make a difference.

through the fair booth!

Well folks, the Allegan County Fair is over and it looks like we did pretty well. Setting up, stocking and running the fair booth is always quite a job but everyone steps up and pulls together. We may be a small parish but we are mighty with God’s help.

As a bonus, this year we were able to send \$152 in “tips” for our food and service to the Central Food Pantry.



It’s tough to recognize everyone who is involved with the fair booth effort because there are so many who help and so many who just quietly handle their assignments. **But please know that everyone’s effort and teamwork is much appreciated!**

by working upstairs!

The hard work to create the library and improve the upstairs meeting continues. **Thank you so much to everyone who has quietly tackled different pieces of the project.** If you haven’t been upstairs lately, take a moment to enjoy the progress.

at the Bishop’s consecration service!



A number of Good Shepherd members were able to attend the September 28 service when Bishop Wayne Hougland was consecrated. Thank you to all who stepped forward to represent our parish during the service. They included **Father Tom**, who processed with the clergy; **Jim Kauppi**, who presented our parish banner; **Gari Voss**, who sang with the combined choir, and **Ray Lewis**, who helped serve communion. **Linda Kauppi** also attended the service.

by working outside!

Thank you to everyone who helps keep our lawn and gardens look so nice. **Jim Wendt** has faithfully mowed the yard all summer long. **Jim Kauppi** and some teens worked to removed unwanted shrubbery from the church entry area. **Betty Miner** and **Gari Voss** have weeded and watered plants to keep the garden looking pretty.



by helping host a shower!

Thank you to everyone who helped the ECW host the baby shower for Carrie and Matt Burza. All the extra special touches helped make it a memorable day as they prepare for the arrival of their first baby, a boy. Once again, you showed how much our church family cares for its own members.



Do you know someone who is quietly doing good things within our parish to honor God? If so, please let the office know so we can recognize their hard work.

Thoughts of Paul B. Henry

As frustration with Washington is broadcast daily, I thought that some reflections from an old friend might provide some encouragement and direction. Paul Henry died in July 1993 of a brain tumor. Prior to his death, he was a Calvin College professor before embarking on a political career. His father, Carl Henry, was a famous Evangelical theologian and Paul brought to his service as a Michigan legislator and a U.S. House representative a sensitive and deeply Christian conscience. He was widely respected by most who knew him, and always open to criticism and debate from those with whom he disagreed.

I misplaced my current reading (a biography of John Adams) and was looking for something to read as I joined my wife at Starbucks and fell upon a volume that I carry in my trunk as default reading when some unexpected delay occurs. This particular day, I came across some of Paul's writings that I thought might be appropriately shared. They come out [Serving the Claims of Justice](#), a book published by Calvin College in 2001. It chronicles his struggles to be a devout Christian and (simultaneously) an effective politician.

There is plenty of reflection of the relationship between religion and politics, and some thoughts in the chapter "Strategies for Political Action" struck me a particularly timely. In one place, he points to the *tremendous amount of political illiteracy among the American populace at large* and one statistic that *only 53 percent of the eligible voters can even name their congressman* and another that *less than 25 percent can tell how the representative voted on even one major piece of legislation in the previous year!*

Congressman Henry goes on to suggest that only when the population becomes politically literate can government more effectively reorder national priorities, solve problems and be more responsible to the people. He continues *politics tends to become 'special interest' politics because only those with special interests tend to be concerned with that the government is doing. Only those with more diffused interests can change this situation. The problem with American government is not that it is unresponsive, but that it has only special interests to which it responds.*

The remedy suggested by Henry is discussions, especially within the Christian community where Christian values and commitments hopefully will inform the direction and character of the discussion despite the fact that Christians will not always agree on all details. Such discussions would bring concerns to the political scene that might otherwise be unrepresented.

Then, after some degree of political literacy, political activity may well move us from being hearers of the Word to doers of the Word as well . . . without, however, involving the institutional church in the process. The role of the church he sees as educational and motivational but without associating itself with specific political programs and parties. Promoting justice as the servant of love and recognizing that civic involvement is in itself a legitimate form of Christian service is a way of responding to the Church's vocation to become the light of the world.

Quick notes . . .

Diocese mission trip needs volunteers

The last domestic mission trip planned by the Diocese of Western Michigan will take volunteers to help New Orleans residents continue rebuilding eight years after Hurricane Katrina hit the area. The trip is slated November 15-24. The diocese covers all registration, travel, housing and meal costs. More details posted in the church.

Wings Home seeks volunteer caregivers

Wings Home need some volunteer caregivers to help staff one of three shifts: 7 a.m. to noon, noon to 5 p.m. and 5 to 10 p.m. Volunteers can choose a time slot once a month or once a week, whatever works best for them. Those filling the shifts agree to arrive on time and provide basic patient care for Wings Home residents. Training is provided. The commitment is small but it helps this charitable hospice group provide great physical and emotional comfort. More details about volunteering are available by calling (269) 686-9653 or e-mailing volunteer@wingsofhopehospice.com.

Adult Forum plans

Gordon Berghus, an occasional visitor at our worship and a lay religious order member, plans to attend our Adult Forum @ 11:10 on October 20 to discuss spiritual life. Please join us.

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-- "Only Human" continue from page 1 --

Yes, Church would be great if it weren't for all the sinners. But like recently deceased author Madeleine L'Engle, we learn to cope with it. A bright light in the Episcopal Church, Madeleine L'Engle was fond of comparing the Church to Noah's Ark where, she observed people wouldn't put up with the unbearable stench inside were it not for the fact that we couldn't endure the raging storm outside.

The Church of the Good Shepherd like all others has had its difficult moments. In 2010 there was a request for the dissolution of the pastoral relationship. It appeared the parish was not in a position to continue the financial compensation negotiated with its Rector and still meet its Diocesan apportionment and other expenses. Before the process of dissolving the pastoral relationship was implemented, your former Rector resigned and accepted a call to another parish. The separation, as many of you know, was not an easy one.

I began here as a supply priest and then with the advice and concurrence of the Bishop continued as "priest-in-charge", a designation that does not imply indefinite tenure. The proposed diocesan draft of letter of agreement suggested a period of three to five years and we chose to opt for an initial period of three years beginning in February 2012 with the option of mutually agreeing to another year or two if necessary

We have engaged in our ministry without significant changes in worship or programs. The intent has been to bring some healing and stability to what was a rather difficult transition and to discern what the parish size and resources might be or become. Good Shepherd was not officially declared a "distressed parish" but neither was it perceived ready to call a new rector. And the question of whether we can increase in size remains unanswered.

In the meantime, Bishop Gepert has retired and this year we elected and ordained a new Bishop, Wayne Hougland. In the midst of the diocesan transition, we have been assured that this is not an appropriate time to initiate a process to search for or call new clergy to serve our parish

But at some point the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd will begin to explore plans for its future and eventually new arrangements will be made. They will come with a new set of advantages and deficits that are uniquely theirs. Some of which you are wise enough to know may be obvious early on, some of which will emerge only later, some of which will be developed in response to your own ministry and sense of priorities.

I suspect most of you have heard the saying passed on to new clergy about the first year you can't do anything wrong, the second year you can't do anything right, and in the third year you figure out how, with all the human sinfulness around, this can become a good and productive match. Learning to cope with human imperfection is no small task but we can make it work toward spiritual growth and to the glory of God.

God chose the people of Israel to proclaim the Word in spite of their fascination with the golden calf. Paul was called even though he was a former blasphemer, persecutor, and man of violence. John reminds us: *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* It is only our sense of self-righteousness that can keep us from wholeness, from holiness. Jesus welcomed sinners and invited them into fellowship.

Regardless of how we may see ourselves, God uses us for God's purposes. As we move forward toward a deeper understanding of ourselves as a parish, let us take the opportunity to embrace the uncertainty of the present moment with the conviction that God is at work. There will also be moments of enlightenment and discovery that will attract and delight us.

As St. Paul observed in his Letter to the Romans, *All creation is groaning in one great act of giving birth.* And here in Allegan we are participating in that act of giving birth in our own particular way. As anyone who has been a part of a birth process, there are things that are joyous and things that are painful, things that must be left behind and things that are taken on. Let us continue this work with faith, hope and enthusiasm for our own future role in the unfolding drama of the Kingdom of God.

Tom +



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 October 6	
Chalice Bearer:	Gari Voss
Crucifer:	Ray Lewis
Lectors:	1. Kandi Gibson 2. 3.
Altar Guild:	Mary Ann Ferris
Ushers:	Jim Wendt
Musician:	Martha Meek
Coffee Hour:	Kandi Gibson
Prayers for Peace: Monday – _____ Wednesday –The Wheats Friday –Mary Ann Ferris	

Serving the week of October 27	
Chalice Bearers:	Ray Lewis
Crucifer:	
Lectors:	1. Sue Buese 2. Wendy Simmons 3. Ed Spicer
Altar Guild:	Linda Pullen
Ushers:	Kandi Gibson
Musician:	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	Linda Kauppi
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Linda Pullen Wednesday – Linda Kauppi Friday – Marv Voss	

Serving the week of October 13	
Chalice Bearer:	
Crucifer:	Marv Voss
Lectors:	1. Gari Voss 2. Sue Buese 3. Ann Perrigo
Altar Guild:	Kandi Gibson
Ushers:	Betty Miner
Musician:	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	Mary Ann Ferris
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Linda Pullen Wednesday – Norm Richards Friday – Marv Voss	

Some calendar notes	
Saturday, October 5 – Baby shower for Carrie and Matt Burza hosted by ECW	
Sunday, October 6 – Worship Task Force at 11:10 a.m. in the library (see below for more info) and Blessing of the Animals (outside if weather permits) at 1 p.m.	
Sunday, October 13 – Vestry meets at 11:30 a.m.	
Sunday, October 20 – Adult Forum at 11:10 a.m. in the library with guest Gordon Berghus. The topic will be spiritual life.	
Thursday, October 31 – Trick-or-treating visitors in Winchester Hall	

Serving the week of October 20	
Chalice Bearer	Kate Nameche
Crucifer:	Gari Voss
Lectors:	1. Norm Richards 2. 3. Wendy Simmons
Altar Guild:	Ann Perrigo
Ushers:	Ray Lewis
Musician :	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	Ed Spicer and Ann Perrigo
Prayers for Peace: Monday –Linda Kauppi Wednesday –The Wheats Friday –Mary Ann Ferris	

Trick-or-Treaters coming	
	<p>The parish plans to greet trick-or-treaters again this year. Watch the bulletin for the specific date and time. Meanwhile, if you can donate some candy, please leave it in the kitchen clearly marked that it is for Halloween. Let the office know if you can help pass out treats.</p>



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 November 3 All Saints Day observed	
Chalice Bearer:	Kate Nameche
Crucifer:	Marv Voss
Lectors:	1. Ed Spicer 2. 3. Norm Richards
Altar Guild:	Mary Ann Ferris
Ushers:	Norm Richards
Musician	Martha Hesse
Coffee Hour:	Betty Miner
Prayers for Peace: Monday –Lynne Winters Wednesday –Norm Richards Friday –Mary Ann Ferris	

Serving the week of November 10	
Chalice Bearer:	Gari Voss
Crucifer	Ray Lewis
Lectors:	1. Jan Meyers 2. Norm Richards 3. Ann Perrigo
Altar Guild:	Kate Nameche/ Dede Lewis
Ushers:	Jim Wendt
Musician	Martha Meek
Coffee Hour:	
Prayers for Peace: Monday –Betty Miner Wednesday –The Wheats Friday –Marv Voss	

Serving the week of November 17	
Chalice Bearer:	Kate Nameche
Crucifer:	Gari Voss
Lectors:	1. Wendy Simmons 2. 3. Ed Spicer
Altar Guild:	Linda Pullen
Ushers:	Betty Miner
Musician:	Martha Meek
Coffee Hour:	
Prayers for Peace: Monday –Linda Kauppi Wednesday –Norm Richards Friday –Mary Ann Ferris	

Serving the week of November 24 Christ the King Sunday	
Chalice Bearers:	Norm Richards
Crucifer:	Marv Voss
Lectors:	1. Gari Voss 2. Sue Buese 3. Kandi Gibson
Altar Guild:	Lynne Winters
Ushers:	Ray Lewis
Musician:	Martha Meek
Coffee Hour:	
Prayers for Peace: Monday – Lynne Winters Wednesday – Linda Kauppi Friday – CLOSED Thanksgiving	

Some calendar notes
Saturday, November 2 – Country Market in Winchester Hall
Sunday, November 3 – All Saints' day observed
Sunday, November 10 – Vestry meets at 11:30 a.m.
Sunday, November 17 – Adult Forum at 11:10 a.m. in the library upstairs.
Sunday, November 24 – Set up begins for Santa's workshop
Friday, November 29 – Office closed for Thanksgiving
Saturday, December 7 – Santa's Workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Winchester Hall.

Stewardship Discussions
<p>Soon it will be time to begin our annual stewardship discussions as the Vestry starts preparing the 2014 budget plan. Details about the annual stewardship dinner will be distributed in the next few weeks. Meanwhile, please hold the stewardship committee and the parish in prayer as we prayerfully discern a financial plan for next year. Thank you!</p>

ECW plans two special holiday sales

◆ **Country Market** will open at 9 a.m. Saturday, **November 2** with a variety of holiday decorations, jewelry, hand-made gifts, regiftable items, baked goods, frozen treats and other items.



◆ **Santa's Shop** will open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, **December 7** with a variety of inexpensive items that children and low-income individuals may purchase for holiday gifts. (The goal is to have lots of things priced for a dollar or two plus an area where children can wrap their gifts without parent help.)

Members will meet at 1 p.m. Friday, October 11, to work on the plans.

You can help by checking your home for items that could be sold during either event, and gathering ingredients to help make the treats. Plan to bring items for Country Market to the church by Sunday, October 27, and items for Santa's Shop to the church by Sunday, November 24, so volunteers can set up the sales. See Ann Stough for more information or with questions.



The Episcopal
Church of the Good Shepherd

101 North Walnut Street
Allegan, MI 49010



Many are helping
make a difference
See details on page 3

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