



Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

101 Walnut Street
Allegan, Michigan 49010

Cross and Staff

January 2018 / February 2018

Epiphany into Lent

Coming Events

Epiphany 3

Sunday, January 21:

10:00 AM: Eucharist

11:30 AM: **Annual Meeting**

All are encouraged to come!

Epiphany 4

Sunday, January 28:

10:00 AM: Eucharist

Snow Date for Annual Meeting

Epiphany 5

Sunday, February 4:

10:00 AM: Eucharist

Epiphany 6

Sunday, February 11:

10:00 AM: Eucharist – Celebrating
Spirituals/Gospel music – guest
vocalists

Inquirer Class (Shrove Tuesday)

Tuesday, February 13:

7:00 PM: Desserts & Inquiry into
the Episcopal Church

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14:

7 PM: Imposition of Ashes

Lent 1

Sunday, February 18:

10:00 AM: Eucharist

Lenten Study

Wednesday, February 21:

6 PM: Soup Supper

6:30 PM: *Jesus was an Episcopalian*

Musician Workshop

Saturday, February 24, 2:30 PM:

Church musicians will work with
Nate Mattson to expand their
knowledge and techniques on the
organ, and enhance hymns

Lent 2

Sunday, February 25:

Snow Date for Annual Meeting

Our Work for 2018

If you were unable to be in church on Sunday, December 31st, the Rev. Paul Kehnle shared a poem by Howard Thurman.

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Fr. Bill Fleener helped us celebrate a beautiful Christmas service with candles flickering, poinsettias blooming, the Christmas tree sparkling, and hymns filling the church. The nativity set bathed in light, and the Wisemen adorned the windows as they headed for the stable and the infant Christ child. We have now entered Epiphany.

Merriam Webster describes Epiphany as “January 6 observed as a church festival in commemoration of the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles or in the Eastern Church in commemoration of the baptism of Christ.” It continues with “a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.”

During Epiphany we put an emphasis on how Christ is manifested (shown through the senses) to all people. Our work now is to help others make Christ “easily understood or recognized by the mind” of those who do not know him, or who have found reasons to place him on a “back burner” so to speak. As the Rev. Dean Beckwith reminded us, we can take our matches and fire ourselves up to show God’s Love to the world, or at least the Allegan area.

Our Annual Meeting is on Sunday, January 21, 2018, and it can be a coordinated step into the “work of Christmas.” Please, join us and/or respond with your ideas on how we can better take Christ’s light out into the world.

Vestry Notes

During the Vestry Meeting on January 14, several items were discussed:

- 1. Annual Meeting:**
The majority of the meeting will be dedicated to reviewing past activities and prioritizing activities for 2018. Brunch will be provided by the vestry members.
- 2. The Balance Sheet** shows a balance of \$3,491.18 as of December 31, 2017.
- 3. Office Needs:**
Ray Lewis has been making repairs on the color printer and the MicroSoft Office must be updated so Sharon can access all of her documents. The Vestry approved spending beyond the \$500 limit to acquire the needed hardware and software.
- 4. Parishioner Opportunities:** The Bistop's Leadership Workshop for our area will be February 10 at St. Luke's in Kalamazoo. All parishioners are welcome to attend. You can register on the Diocesan Website http://www.edwm.org/news_and_events.html. There is not cost. Registration is at 9:30; 10 AM sessions begin; 12 lunch; about 3 PM conclude.
- 5. Vestry Candidates:** The Nominating Team had a difficult time finding people who were willing to fill 1 one-year term, 1 two-year term and 2 three-year terms. Thank you Kate Nameche, Vickie Barber, Koree Johnson and Gari Voss for agreeing to serve.
- 6. Christian Formation:** Check the Christian Formation Opportunities for information regarding Inquirer and enrichment opportunities which begin on Shrove Tuesday.
- 7. Values in Action Conference:**
The Episcopal Church in the U.S. has been providing information and awareness session regarding racial equality. Trinity Church, Wall Street will present a conference that will be available as a Webcast on February 2-3, 2018. St. Martin's is the closest church hosting this currently, but Judy Buchanan is investigating offering it at Good Shepherd. More info to come.

- 8. Webpage:** Ray Lewis put up the new webpage <http://goodshepherdallegan.weebly.com/>. This is just the beginning. Please check it out then give suggestions on thing you would like to see available.
- 9. Building & Grounds:** Jim Wendt with some help from Kandi repaired the ceiling in the Acolyte Room. As soon as the ceiling gets repainted, it will be ready for a new floor and window trim.

Christian Formation Opportunities

Advent is just behind us, Christmas things have been packed away, Epiphany is zipping along, and Lenten will soon begin with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. Which is also Valentine's Day. Share the Love!

Inquirer's Dessert Night (Shrove Tuesday)

This year, we plan on offering an **Inquirer's Dessert Night on Tuesday, February 13th**. The gathering will be advertised, but the best advertising is from members of the congregation. Please invite anyone you know who not only wonders about where God/Christ fits in their lives, but who seem a bit unsettled or lost or searching. They will receive an overview of the church and some materials.

Soup Supper / Lenten Series

This leads into the **Lenten Series which begins Wednesday, February 21st**. We will use The Rev. Chris Yaw's book *Jesus was an Episcopalian (And you can be too)* and accompanying video vignettes to ignite discussion and questions.

Sacramentum 2018: Walking with God

Finally, on Sunday evenings from February 11 – March 22, you can participate in *Sacramentum: Forming Sacred Community to Explore Jesus*. <https://www.churchnext.tv/library/sacramentum-2018/67352/about/> This would be great to do in small groups, but individuals can do it from home.



Martha's Ukulele Band and then some...

December 29th,
Good Shepherd Church

Celebrating another Year!

Birthdays

January 17: Cindy Pyle; Shawn Herlihy
 January 23: Becky Gibson
 January 23: Jana (Wendt) Tibbitts
 January 26: Steve Tibbitts
 January 27: Betty Miner
 January 28: Max Spicer
 January 29: Adam Iehl
 January 31: Elizabeth White
 January 31: Teresa White

February 2: Conley
 February 2: Chris Sinden
 February 3: Theresa Krickow
 February 5: Don Morris
 February 5: Cillian Slater
 February 6: Jess Knoepke
 February 7: Jim Wendt
 February 11: Todd Zimmerman
 February 16: Cyle Slater
 February 18: Vicki Barber

Anniversaries

February 5: Cillian and Lex Slater
 February 14: Lynne and Steve Winters

How Can I Help?

Parishioners often ask how they can help around the church, or from home because they cannot come to church. Here are some ways...

1. Attend the Annual Meeting

2. **Bring a parishioner or friend** to church or to an activity during Epiphany and/or Lent.

3. Call or Send a note to a Parishioner:

We have several parishioners who live away from the church and would love to hear from others. If you would like to do this, please call Gari at 269 303-0451 or Sharon at 269 673-2254 to get the names, addresses and/or phone numbers of possible people.

4. Altar Flowers:

Donate a few extra dollars to have special prayers said for loved ones or just to thank God for your blessings. Flower donations are \$15, and lamp oil is \$5. (Note: This is the minimum amount for a Sunday, a larger donation is always welcome.)

5. Light Maintenance:

Check with Kandi on things like hanging smoke alarms, painting, etc.

6. Activity Assistance:

Preparation is beginning for activities like the Santa Workshop. Help is needed inventorying what we have and making a shopping list for additional gifts. You do not have to be in charge to be an important part.

Server Schedule

(If you are unable to serve when scheduled, please arrange for a substitute.)

	Jan. 21, 2018	Jan. 28, 2018	Feb. 4, 2018	Feb. 11, 2018	Feb. 18, 2018
Clergy	Rev. Dean Beckwith	Fr. Bill Fleener	Rev. Dean Beckwith	Fr. Bill Fleener	Rev. Dean Beckwith
Chalice Bearer	Gari Voss	Ray Lewis	Kate Nameche	Judy Buchanan	Kate Nameche
Crucifer	Ray Lewis	Gari Voss	Wendy Simmons	Gari Voss	Ray Lewis
Lector # 1	Kandi Gibson	Judy Buchanan	Sue Buese	Wendy Simmons	Gari Voss
Lector # 2	Gari Voss	Kandi Gibson	Judy Buchanan	Sue Buese	Ann Perrigo
Lector # 3	Wendy Simmons	Ann Perrigo	Kandi Gibson	Ann Perrigo	Judy Buchanan
Altar Guild	Kandi Gibson	Carrie Burza	Kate Nameche	Ann Perrigo	Lynne Winters
Usher	Betty Miner	Kandi Gibson	Jim Wendt	Ray Lewis	Betty Miner
Vestry Duty	Sue Squiers-Frank	Lynne Winters	Judy Buchanan	Korree Johnson	Vickie Barber
Musician	Siqi Li	Pufan Wang	Siqi Li	Jane Kozhevnikova	Siqi Li
Coffee Hour	Vestry Members	Judy Wendt	Judy Buchanan	Gari Voss	?

In Case You Missed It

Julie Hunter Christmas Party

John Dudley entertained the children with his magic, and with his furry friend.



Christmas was gorgeous!



Salud and Thank You!

For the success of the **Julie Hunter Christmas Party**, we thank **Linda and Chuck Pullen** for coordinating the toy contributions with assistance from the **Hunter Family**, the magic of **John Dudley**, the cupcakes donated by **our ladies**, the pizzas order by **Kandi Gibson** and picked up by **Nan Hunter Vincent, Tony** and friends for Christmas music, **John Kyes** as Santa, and all the **Allegan County workers** who bring the children to Good Shepherd.

For the **beautiful church at Christmas**, we thank all those who donate money for the flowers; for who decorate including **Dede Lewis, Lynne Winters, Judy Wendt, Jim Wendt, Ray Lewis, Wendy Simmons, Carrie Burza, Ann Perrigo, Mike Buese, Korree Johnson, Betty Miner, and Gari Voss**. Along with **Terri Kelly** and **Dian Main** who coordinate the Festival or Trees at Camp Kidwell where we get trees and wreaths.

For the music of **Martha Meek...** Martha's Thank You Concert at the Church on December 29th was well attended and offered an evening of wonderful music. A number of her friends joined her as she gave thanks and thanked the many friends she has made in Allegan. We wish Martha the very best as she embarks on her life's new journey.

