



Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

101 Walnut Street
Allegan, Michigan 49010

Cross and Staff

November / December 2017

This issue is dedicated to taking our thanks into Advent's self-reflections.

Coming Events

New Service Hours:

Beginning Dec. 3, 2017

10:00 AM – Eucharist

Pass the Buck:

Playing it Forward

Sundays, November 5, 12, 19

9:30 AM: Eucharist

11:00 AM: Coffee Hour

Pufan's Recital:

Tuesday, November 21

5:00 PM; Dalton Hall, WMU

Shared Ministry Information:

Sunday, November 26

The Rev. Canon Bill Spaid will introduce the congregation to Shared Ministry and answer questions.

Festival of Trees

Thurs., Nov. 30 – Sun. Dec. 3

www.campkidwell.org

Santa's Shop

Saturday, December 2, 2017

10 AM – 2 PM All can shop for family presents.

Advent 1 – Church Year Begins -

Sunday, December 3:

10:00 A.M. – Eucharist

Advent 2

Sunday, December 10:

10:00 AM: Martha's last service

11:30 AM: Vestry Meeting

All are welcome!

Please, consider your pledge for 2018 very carefully, and return your pledge cards by November 30, 2017.

Responding in New Ways

November begins with the Diocesan Convention. You can review the happenings at <http://www.edwm.org>. There are three topics that were explored that may be of interest. The first relates to Anti-Racism Training for all who serve on teams and groups that interact with the public, the second relates to our constitution and canons, and the third relates to the restructuring of the diocese. It is the third that may be of special interest because it demonstrates how the diocesan leadership wants to improve support to parishes. Currently, Rev. Canon to the Ordinary Bill Spaid travels the length of the diocese in response to parish needs. With the new system, the diocese will be divided into thirds with support similar to Canon Spaid's being made available by three different consultants – one in the north, one in the middle, and one in the south of the diocese. More to come...

Over the years, the diocese has given Good Shepherd support in several ways. We have taken advantage of youth activities, Christian Education materials, camp and youth retreats including Happening. Teachers have attended trainings for Godly Play and Journey to Adulthood. Adults have attended leadership trainings with the Bishop and the diocesan staff, financial guidance, and currently, open discussion for clergy support using Shared Ministry formats. In addition, we have a team that is attending the Diocesan Congregation Development Institute.

Why the above ramblings? As we come to the end of our Every Member Canvas (November 30th) and move into Advent (preparing for Christ's arrival), it may be the time to pray for ways to identify and embrace changes that the church (at large and the Good Shepherd) could/should undertake to better take Christ into a world full of people who want to make a difference. We can show them how Christ can enhance their lives.

Vestry Notes

During the Vestry Meeting on November 5th, the members wrestled with several decisions that would require getting clear information to the congregation:

1. **New Sunday Service time:** Beginning Advent, **December 3, 2017**, the Sunday service will begin at **10 A. M.** This will allow for weather, priests who live out of town, and members who have shared difficulties with getting to church by 9:30 A.M. They know there are some who would rather have the time at 9:30, and hope they will accept the change.
2. **Advent 4 and Christmas Eve Services:** Both fall on **December 24th**. **Advent 4** will be celebrated at **10 A.M.** **Christmas Eve** will be celebrated with **Lessons and Carols at 7:00 P.M.** followed by Eucharist at 7:30 P.M.
3. **Supply Clergy Schedule:** A plan was presented to have the Rev. Dean Beckwith celebrate on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of each month, and Fr. Bill Fleener will celebrate the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. This schedule will continue through March.
4. **The Balance Sheet** shows a \$3,448.56 figure.
5. **Capital Fund Team:** A team was set to carefully examine the projects around church that will take funds beyond the budget's ability to cover.
6. **Martha Meek's** last service before retiring and moving north is December 10, 2017.
7. **Santa's Shop, December 2nd**, will be coordinated by Kandi Gibson. She is looking for volunteers to assist with different tasks.
8. **Holiday Pie Sale:** Parishioners are encouraged to take orders for pies that will be available for pickup on Monday, November 20th.
9. **Shared Ministry:** Several members have been attending meetings in the diocese to find ways for small congregations to have clergy to cover Sunday services, meet pastoral needs, and assist with basic administrative duties. The Rev. Canon Bill Spaid will be with us on November 26th to answer questions about this concept.

Advent – What? Why? How?

Advent begins Sunday, December 5, 2017. Can you answer these questions about Advent?

1. What does the word *Advent* mean?
2. When does Advent begin and end?
3. Why were these dates chosen?
4. What are the colors used in Advent? What do the colors represent?
5. Why do we use an Advent wreath?

(Answers and more information can be found at http://www.faithandworship.com/Advent_themes_and_resources.htm but we will hide them on another page.)

The themes most often used for the four weeks of Advent are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love; or God's people, the Old Testament Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary. However, the choice of themes is not limited to the usual or comfortable, and with a little forward planning there are many ways in which the approach to Christmas can be tackled imaginatively, and bring out different truths about God's amazing love and Grace.

You may wish to use an Advent wreath during Advent. You can create a "wreath" in a variety of ways. You can use pre-made wreaths or circles for the candles, or you can use single candles placed in a circle with a white candle in the middle. Families may wish to use an Advent Calendar, but be careful because these do not always match the Advent calendar. The importance of all these traditions is to set aside a time for prayer in order to prepare for the birth of Christ, our savior.

Prayer for Advent

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to all as we wait in uncertainty.

Bring hope and peace with whatever lies ahead.
Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided. For your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you.

-Adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book

Thank You for another year!

Birthdays

November 12: Kim Winters
November 13: Al Barney
November 14: Carrie Burza
November 16: Wendy Simmons
November 25: Jim Kauppi
November 27: Matt Burza,
Deirdre Toeller-Novak

November 28: Ron Wenzel
December 2: Sam Zimmerman
December 4: Will Sprague
December 5: Kalynn Slater
December 9: Tom Lange
December 11: Lily Herlihy
December 15: Brandon Ferris
December 16: Edye Pyle
December 19: Laura Sprague
December 21: Stefan White
December 22: Jim Wendt
December 27: Jeff Northrup
Elizabeth Sinden

December 30: Dean Ferris

Anniversaries

November 20: Linda and Don Hausserman
December 2: Mike and Amber Pettee

Diocesan Church Development Institute

Members of Good Shepherd's DCDI (Diocesan Congregational Development Institute) Team have been studying issues of trust development in our parish. We have determined that in order for there to be trust, there must be transparent communication among all members and leaders of Good Shepherd Church. As a first step, you have seen the rebirth of The Cross and Staff, which reports on activities throughout the parish and includes notes from Vestry meetings.

The next step was to develop a short survey regarding communication that was given to members in church on October 29th and sent to parishioners who were not present at the service. The survey was included with the stewardship letter and pledge card that were sent to members who were not in church on October 29th. We hope that with feedback from the members, we can work together to improve communication to develop activities and make important decisions that can strengthen our church.

In case you missed the action! We are so very grateful to the crew from Allied Roofing!!
Thank you **Jim Kauppi** for the pictures!



Before...



After...



Parish Profiles: Ken Mills

If you remember Ken Mills when he first came to Good Shepherd, you may remember a soft spoken, unassuming person who joined the choir and began lay reading. But, if you watched and listened, you found a person whose relationship with God went deep into his soul and his actions. Ken now resides at Friendship Village, he moves quietly about the Village visiting others, or can be found in his room with WMU students or others building such things as flashlights from Sucret tins. Though he has physically slowed down, he jokes that he has his learners permit for his scooter so he can better reach out to others in need.

Recently, Ken was asked to share some musings regarding his stewardship. At first, he shared that he really did not believe that he had anything, then he sent the following:

October 23: Outsiders often don't realize that many of us residents keep quite busy as it makes this facility a good place for everyone to live. I am going to play bingo in an hour or so, not that I am particularly fond of it, but for quite a few folks, it is a helpful mental exercise to engage in. I also encourage residents to bring young people from Western into their apartments for conversation, cooking, dish washing, etc. as it is a healthy activity to engage in. I think God has placed me here for this purpose.

October 24: It is 1:30 PM here at the Village. I have just returned from dinner and my visitation program. I try to get to the Health Care

Center on a weekly basis. When the Village care managers feel that the best interest of a person is at stake, the residents are sometimes moved to another part of the Village. It is often hard for the Village resident to make the change, so I try to visit them, give them an WMU Intern built flashlight and words of encouragement. It shows that they are not forgotten, and I really like to see the smiles on their faces. This morning, Tyler from WMU built three flashlights. I gave them all away. One went to Bill Hunt. In the past, his dad sang hymns on WKZO radio. One went to Jeanne. Her husband was a friend of mine for many years and has a printing business. The other went to Dave McShane, former senior minister of the local Presbyterian church. Dave has taken a real interest in amateur radio, and I am coaching him in it. It really makes me feel good to see the smiles on their faces. Some of the recipients are over 100 years old and are very sharp. It is an opportunity that I cannot pass up. And it makes (out of context) me realize the rhythm when Jesus said, "When you do it to the least of these, you are doing it unto me." Possibly, this will give you an idea of how my "religious Philosophy" has developed. It makes me feel so good to do what I feel is God's work.

Blessings, Ken

Ken lives a life of doing the best for all those he meets. Those who visit with Ken are also following Jesus' teachings. The beauty... when we each give to others and allow others to give to us, we all walk in Jesus' footsteps.

Christmas at Sea: Outreach to Knit/Crochet

If you knit or crochet, you can make Christmas special for mariners by creating scarfs and hats that are distributed to men who spend months at sea. The knit and crochet patterns are set and can be found at <http://seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea>.



Book Corner

Jesus was an Episcopalian, and you can be too

by Rev. Chris Lew

Fr. Lew is an Episcopal priest who served at St. Thomas in Battle Creek. The book is a light-hearted look at the beliefs of Episcopalians and how the traditions blend with today's realities. Fr. Lew immediately shares that Jesus could also have been Lutheran, Methodist, etc. His look at the Episcopal church helps people understand the power of being a Christian in the Episcopal tradition. At the same time, he answers some basic questions. He supports the book with videos at

<http://www.jesuswasanepiscopalian.org/>

Server Schedule

	Nov. 12, 2017	Nov. 19, 2017	Nov. 26, 2017 (Christ the King)	Dec. 3, 2017 (Advent 1)	Dec. 10, 2017 (Advent 2)
Clergy	Rev. Dean Beckwith	Rev. Dean Beckwith	Rev. Canon Bill Spaid	Rev. Dean Beckwith	Fr. Bill Fleener
Chalice Bearer	Judy Buchanan	Kate Nameche	Ray Lewis	Kate Nameche	Judy Buchanan
Crucifer	Ray Lewis	Wendy Simmons	Wendy Simmons	Ray Lewis	Gari Voss
Lector # 1	Sue Buese	Kandi Gibson	Wendy Simmons	Ann Perrigo	Sue Buese
Lector # 2	Judy Buchanan	Sue Buese	Ann Perrigo	Wendy Simmons	Gari Voss
Lector # 3	Linda Kauppi	Judy Buchanan	Kandi Gibson	Judy Buchanan	Ann Perrigo
Altar Guild	Dede Lewis	Kandi Gibson	Ann Perrigo	Dede Lewis	Carrie Burza
Usher	Betty Miner	Ray Lewis	Kandi Gibson	Jim Wendt	Betty Miner
Vestry Duty	Korree Johnson	Sue Squiers-Frank	Lynne Winters	Judy Buchanan	Wendy Simmons
Musician	Martha Meek	Katherine Plier	Pufan Wang	Siqi Li	Martha Meek
Coffee Hour	Judy B and Kandi	Linda Kauppi	Kate Nameche	Mike and Sue Buese	Betty Miner

Giving more thanks...

The Altar Guild

Our thanks to **Dede Lewis** for her leadership and dedication in organizing the many pieces and people who prepare the altar and church each Sunday. Also, thank you to those who alternate through the year... **Mary Ann Ferris, Lynne Winters, Ann Perrigo, Kandi Gibson, Kate Nemache, Carrie Burza, and Gari Voss.**

Altar Flowers and Parish House Arrangements

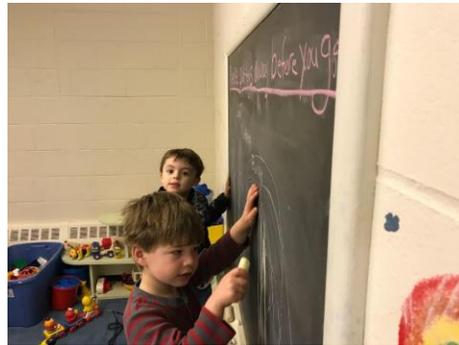
Each week the altar holds beautiful new arrangements of flowers, and periodically, the table in the Parish House are adorned with new center pieces. Thank you, **Korree Johnson** for sharing your talents to brighten our days!

Advent Quiz Answers...

1. from the Latin word adventus, meaning "coming"
2. the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24)
3. It was the time of a traditional winter festival.
4. Blue, pink, white. Link Christ's birth to his death
5. Circle = God is eternal; 4 candles = weeks of waiting; Center candle = light of Jesus entering the world

Thank you for our blessings...

We are thankful for these guys!



Logan Burza and Alex Ashba



Owen Ashba

Thank you **Steve Lewis** for the pictures!