

GRACE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

735 W NEPESSING

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAYS—

12:15pm Holy Eucharist w/Rev. Sue

Followed by Bible Study &

Brown Bag Lunch

CLERGY

The Rev. Susan C. Rich, Priest

revsuerich@yahoo.com

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PH: 810.664-2841

EM: gracechurchlapeer@sbcglobal.net

STAFF

Lori Schmidt, Admin. Assistant

Kathy Levitt, Custodian

Vicki McIntyre, Bookkeeper

Nick Ward, Music Director

OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Wednesday— 9:00a-4:00p

Tuesday & Thursday- 9:00a-1:00p

Friday—Closed

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by Garnet Haase

GRACEFUL TIDINGS

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2010

Reflections from Rev. Sue

Dear Grace Community,

What comes to your mind when you hear the word “grace”? Since it’s our name-sake I’ve been thinking about grace and Grace for some time. There’s a reason why Grace Episcopal Church was given this name and I thought it would be fun and informative to explore some its definitions.

The American Heritage Dictionary:

1. Beauty or charm of movement, form, or proportion.
 2. Fitness or propriety.
 3. a. Good will. b. Mercy; clemency.
 4. Temporary immunity or respite: *a period of grace*.
 5. a. Divine love and protection bestowed freely upon mankind. b. The state of being thus protected or sanctified.
 - c. A virtue or gift granted by God.
 6. A short prayer at mealtime.
 7. Often **Grace**. A title of courtesy for a duke, duchess, or archbishop: *His Grace the Duke of Leeds*.
- in the good** (or **bad**) **graces** of. In (or out) of favor with.
- with good** (or **bad**) **grace**. In a willing (or grudging) manner.

An Episcopal Dictionary of

the Church, edited by Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum reads in part: **Grace**. God’s love freely given to humanity for salvation. The term is from the Latin *gratia*, a “gift or favor freely given,” translating the Greek NT *charis*. Various themes concerning grace have been emphasized since the NT. The Pauline epistles present grace as unmerited and effective as God’s forgiving love for humanity. The Johannine scriptures present grace as God’s indwelling of humanity. The western church has generally followed the Pauline emphasis in terms of grace as God’s forgiveness of sin and healing of humanity for salvation. The eastern church has generally followed the Johannine emphasis of grace as bringing about divinization and human participation in the divine life for salvation....

Anglican theology, notably represented by Richard Hooker [author of the first Book of Common Prayer in 1559], has emphasized the gratuitous nature of grace and the importance of participation in the economy of God’s salvation, especially as known in the life of the church where grace is sacramentally represented and made known. The Catechism notes that grace is “God’s favor

towards us, unearned and undeserved.” By grace God “forgives our sins, enlightens our minds, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills.” The Catechism also states that the sacraments and other sacramental rites of the church are the means of grace (BCP, pp. 857-860).

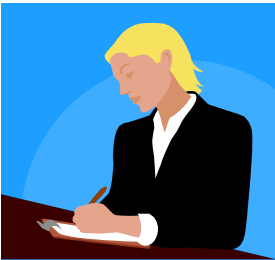
We find an abundance of definitions for grace from just these two sources. I encourage, even challenge, you to also be thinking about grace and Grace. Which of these definitions fit our Christian life? Into which of these definitions are we called to live more fully? What experiences of grace have you had at Grace? Please share them with us!

In Christ’s love,

Rev. Sue



No VESTRY Meeting held in July



SENIOR WARDEN Report

Our Second Open Forum was held July 11. For anyone unable to be there, the Vestry gave a short report on each area for which they are liaison, Rev. Sue spoke and there was time for a few questions. Over all things seem to be going well.

I hope you have all had a chance to see the picture that has been framed and on display in the Library in addition to the Album with the pictures of the former Bishops and Priests which was put together by Pat Schneider. The Album was a gift to us from Harold and Pat and the frame for our picture was a gift from Paul & Maxine Allison's memorial contributions.

Good news! Dutch & Janie Klotzner, Lauraine Ferris and LaVern Warner will be co-team leaders for Food for Families.

Lapeer Days are near! Get rested up for fun, friendship and a lot of work with the Egg Roll Sales.

The Vestry did not have a meeting in July. Our next meeting will be August 11, and is always open to anyone wishing to attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to express what wonderful people we have here at Grace. Everyone works so well together, if we need help all of us who are able are there to pitch in and do our share. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Nancy Wells, Senior Warden

Caring Eyes...by Bernita Hawes

*You see it in their eyes
while standing in the line
the eyes say "do you really care?"
As the elderly suffer in pain
hardly walking, using a cane
body bent they look into your eyes
their eyes say "do you really care?"
When upon chance you meet
that person challenges you
with their eyes, as they walk
the streets, in filthy dirty clothes,
smelling of alcohol. Vulgar in talk
and living styles, their eyes glare
"do you really care?" Do you?
How dare they make me feel so
guilty, I'm thinking, I'm not
like them, why should I feel ashamed?*

*Deep within my soul comes a voice saying,
"I can remember your eyes, when once
you looked at me, saying, "does anyone care?"
I smiled upon you that day
I let you know, yes I did care
and I'm here for you today and always
I took your tears away, I made you smile,
now I expect you to look into
all eyes with the same love
I gave to you, I expect you to help
them to smile, and know you care.*

*Yes, my Lord I answer, you
have shown me the way, to show
that through you, all can
really care!*

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Food for Families Report – Dutch & Janie Klotzner

We are very grateful that our cry for help was answered when Lauraine Ferris offered to join Dutch and I to accomplish the work we are trying to do. Over the next few weeks we'll try to introduce her to the various areas in which we need extra assistance. I'm truly sorry I can no longer do what I once did. Don't most of us feel that way at some time?

Over the past eight weeks we've been busier than we'd like to report but we love that we are able to provide to those that are in need. We've served a total of 647 meals in that short period of time in a community that truly must be hurting. Of those numbers, 121 were sent to LACADA, 192 were lunches we make to be taken by those with a need. The rest of the meals were served here in the parish hall. We are so fortunate that the Farmers Market at Trinity Church is now open to us and we are able to obtain fresh garden vegetables and some breads for our use. If any of you have any questions or perhaps answers for us please feel free to come and visit with us on a Tuesday morning between 7:30 and 10:30 or call Dutch and I at 810-793-5767.

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

The July meeting was almost exclusively devoted to egg roll matters, and that will probably be all we will be thinking and planning until August 20th. If you haven't signed up on one of the sign-up sheets, I do urge you to, it's a great way to really get to know your fellow Episcopalians. ECW also was busy with three funeral luncheons in June/July. Nancy has the task of organizing the menu, buying what food needs to be purchased and making all the telephone calls to ask you all to make something or buy something. On top of all that she always makes the Parish Hall tables so attractive . What a treasure!

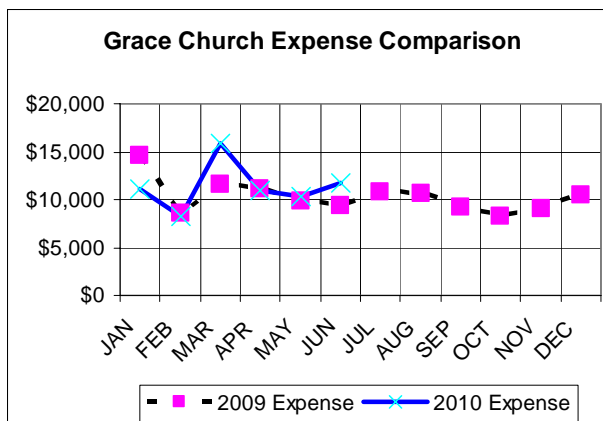
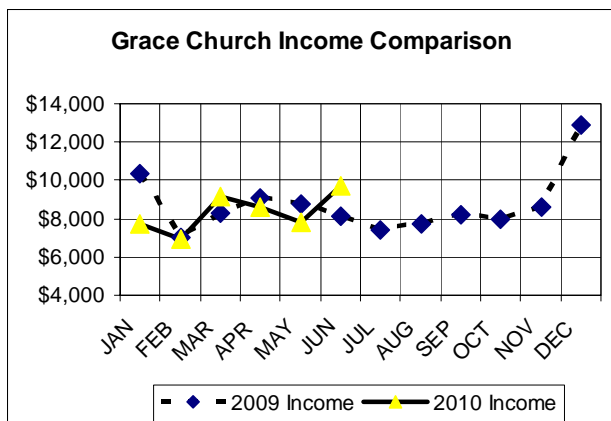
This just in...The net profit from the yard sale is \$437.40! And don't forget to remind all your friends that the next scrapbooking daze weekend is October 8-9th.

Barb Scharping
ECW President



JUNE FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings:	\$ 6,498.75
Total revenue:	\$ 9,714.81
Total expenses:	\$ 11,797.18
Income-Expense:	(\$ 2,082.37)
Year to date deficit:	(\$ 18,332.93)
Total transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:	\$11,000.00
Total assets:	\$ 148,37079



	The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 1	The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 8	The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 15	The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 22	The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 29
	HOLY EUCHARIST	HOLY EUCHARIST	HOLY EUCHARIST	HOLY EUCHARIST	HOLY EUCHARIST
Clergy Serving	The Rev. Nancy Steele	The Rev. Sue Rich	The Rev. Russ Merrill	The Rev. Sue Rich	The Rev. Sarah Parks
Altar Guild	Sandy Arnold				
Altar Flowers	John Shepherd	Dick & Darlene West	Joyce Moore	Don & Nancy Wells	NEEDED
Sanctuary Candle	Judy Downey	Charlie Coutcher	Joyce Moore	Dick & Darlene West	Bill & Lori Schmidt
Vestry Lockup	Lauraine Ferris				
9:00 SERVICE					
Ushers/Greeters	Vicki McIntyre				
LEM	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells	Jennie Spencer	Kerry Spencer	Nancy Wells
Lector 1*	Judy Downey	Bob Thomas	Wilda Hopkins	Craig Arnold	Mary Kay Mason
Lector 2**	Jean Coon	Nancy Wells	Barb Scharping	Sandy Arnold	Vicki McIntyre
Acolytes	Jessica Snipes	Jennie Spencer	Josh Spencer	Nick Bagadinski	Josh Spencer
	Devin House		Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski	Amy Webster
	Hayden House			Jennie Spencer	
Hospitality Hosts	Lorraine Kelch Tracey, Devin & Hayden House		Dave & Jean Coon		

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Allen Dunn
- 14 James Hawes
- 15 Leilani Eastman
Nick Ward
Haley Ward
- 18 Jean Ebel
- 23 Patricia Schneider
- 24 Marcia Minium
- 25 Charlie Coutcher
- 27 Judy Chown
- 31 John Shepherd

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Kerry & Jennie Spencer
- 16 Bob & Elva Baird

TRANSFERS IN

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL

BAPTISMS

WEDDINGS



“If only...” by Garnet Haase

What a waste. It's been eleven years already since John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife and his sister-in-law lost their lives when the plane he was flying crashed into the Atlantic. Two families and a nation grieved their loss. I heard that both JFK Jr. and his wife had misgivings about flying to Massachusetts, but they still did it.

If they had gotten an earlier start maybe they would have arrived while it was still daylight. If they had listened to their intuitions, I wouldn't be writing about them now. If only....

God offers us his guidance every day. He uses a variety of ways to get his message across. He's given us the gift of intuition and he speaks to us through it. He also talks to us through the Bible and through our friends and relatives. He may even speak to us through strangers. God doesn't want our lives torn apart by tragedy. He tries to lead us out of harm's way, but we're headstrong and preoccupied and we often disregard or miss God's warnings.

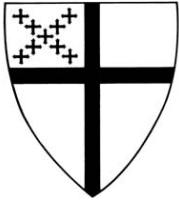
Even those blessed with beauty, intelligence, wealth and education, like JFK Jr., can fail to listen to God, and suffer needlessly. Every time I've had a feeling I should or shouldn't do something, and ignored the feeling, I've been sorry. Paying attention to those inklings can save us a lot of heartache and pain. It could even save our lives.

We find this in the Bible too. Mary, Joseph and Jesus were saved from Herod because they heeded the warning God gave them in a dream. Pontius Pilate would have been better off if he'd listened to his wife's dream in which he was told to have nothing to do with Jesus.

The Apostle Paul knew before his last trip to Jerusalem he was going to be imprisoned and killed if he went there. He ignored the Holy Spirit's warning and went anyway. Sure enough his life was threatened by the Jews, he was taken prisoner by the Romans, and he ended up in Rome where he died a martyr's death. God still made it possible for a lot of people to be touched by Paul's message while he was under house arrest. But how many more people might have heard of Jesus if Paul had been able to travel freely?

God can and does bring good out of the worst situations if we let him. We can ignore him or we can be open to his guidance. The choice is ours. What will we learn from the tragic death of these three young people? What will we learn from the Apostle Paul? Hopefully, we'll learn to listen to our hearts. Our intuition is a gift from God to be used for our good and his glory. Let's pay attention and avoid saying, "If only...."

Yours In Christ,
Garnet Haase



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 735 WEST NEPESSING
 LAPEER MICHIGAN 48446

Change Service Requested

*Faithful people of Christ growing and serving through God's Grace.
 Nursery available during 9:00 service.*

Grace Episcopal Church of Lapeer

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 Lapeer, MI 48446
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 Web site: www.gracechurchlapeer.org
 Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday— 9:00am – 4:00pm
 Tuesday & Thursday—9:00 am—1:00 pm
 Friday—CLOSED

A parish of The Diocese of Eastern Michigan

The Rt. Rev. S. Todd Ousley, Bishop
The Rev. Susan C Rich, Priest

	Vestry	Phone	Liaison Areas
Nancy Wells	Senior Warden	810-664-9793	Outreach/Worship
Dick West	Junior Warden	810-664-8482	Building & Grounds/ Hospitality
Lauraine Ferris	Clerk of the Vestry	810-664-1063	Parish Life/Altar
Clyde Pearsall	Vestry Member	810-653-8006	Formation/Education
Doris Stevenson	Vestry Member	248-909-0121	Stewardship
David Coon	Vestry Member/Treasurer	810-797-4712	Marketing/Advertising Administration
	Staff		Sacramentalists
Nick Ward	Organist	Rev. Ann Norton	St. John the Baptist
Lori Schmidt	Administrative Assistant	Rev. Sarah Parks	Otter Lake
Kathy Levitt	Custodian	Rev. Russ Merrill	St. Paul's
Vicki McIntyre	Bookkeeper	Rev. Nancy Steele	Corunna