

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

Cell: 810-706-0654

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 13, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2011

Reflections from Rev. Sue

Dear Grace Community,

Hopefully you've had the chance to see some of my pictures from the diocesan mission trip to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota. During the week we got a lot of work done. There was a morning Vacation Bible School that took place at St. John the Evangelist in Eagle Butte (the town in which we stayed). Despite several conflicting events for the children's time, there were 21 participants total. There were bible verses and stories, crafts, games and snacks, of course.

A family from the town of On-the-Tree drove in 26 miles each day to provide lunch for the children campers and adult workers as well as dinner for all the adults. Unfortunately, the rain kept us away from taking the Vacation Bible School to White Horse in the afternoons.

The work crew worked on two church-owned homes. By the time we left, both homes were move-in ready. Deacon Hazel Red Bird (86 years old) who had been liv-

ing with family for several years moved into the rectory on her own. She could hardly wait to move in. The other house will provide lodging for a new priest or for visiting clergy and their family.

When I left Michigan for this trip Grace was gearing up for a huge garage sale which was a mission of its own. By providing the gently used items people from the area could purchase goods they needed. The fact that it was in the parish hall brought people into the building who might not otherwise come inside. Hopefully they were greeted with a smile and an invitation to visit us on Sundays.

As I write this it is the first of two Poker Palace sessions. This, too, can be looked upon as a mission of sorts. When we greet individuals and interact with them we can show them the love of Christ in our midst and therefore the love of Christ in their midst.

Lapeer Days will soon be upon us and I am looking forward to partnering with you again this year as we feed egg rolls to many people in the Lapeer area. I, for one, enjoy

the time with you and sharing work while getting to know one another. For those who have direct contact with the general public (whether through sales or the parade), it again gives us the opportunity to show God's abundant love through our actions and words – and maybe even provide an occasional prayer.

The mission field is all around us. All we have to do is look with the eyes of expectation and God will show us where the needs of the community are and maybe even show us a way to address those needs.

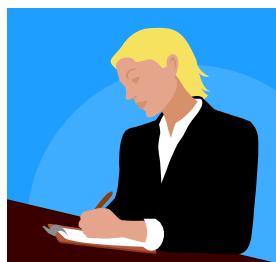
In Christ's love,

Rev. Sue



No July Vestry Meeting held...

SENIOR WARDEN Report



We have finished our first stint at the Poker Palace and are ready for the second round on August 3,4,5 & 6. The first time went well, especially since some most of us had never done it before. Even with a lot of nervousness we made it through and it was actually fun!

Now it is time to gear up for Lapeer Days and Egg Rolls! More fun, fellowship and a lot of hard work! I have been told the sign-up sheets will be available soon. We all know there are many jobs to do and all are very important to our continued success.

The next Vestry meeting will be August 10th at 6:30 and all are welcome.

Nancy Wells, Senior Warden



July was a special month at Grace—we were able to witness two wedding ceremonies.

Congratulations to **Michele and Andrew Weakley**, married on July 8, 2011 and **Leilani and Nick Ward** exchanged their vows on July 15th. May God bless them and keep them as one all the days of their lives.

Did you See God Today?

Are you even looking? I think we see God every day---especially during such challenging times. There is a website: seegodtoday.com that shares the most amazing stories of where people, like you and I, see God.

'See God Today?' has become a personal record of life and God's role in it. It has strengthened an active relationship with God. Most importantly, because now looking for God every day and appreciating His presence, allows more awareness of the ways in which to bring God into other people's lives each day.

I encourage you to check it out and share your stories.

Save the date...

**"Celebrating God's Ministries at Grace"
October 9, 2011 following the service.
Instead of the forum we will be having a pot luck
brunch. Watch for more details!**



Following surgery, **Virginia Cook** has been moved to
Bolton Brook Manor
4554 Thomas Rd. in Metamora – sharing a room with Morna Glancy.

Wilda Hopkins is still in a hospital in Petoskey recovering from a fall; she is making good progress. Cards may be sent to:

Northern MI Regional Medical Center
416 Connable Ave.
Petoskey, MI 49770

Midge Baker has moved to Suncrest Medical Center and

Doris Stevenson has been released from the center where she has been receiving physical therapy – still not sure about follow-up and surgery.

Please keep them all in your prayers for God's healing hands to be upon them.



Many thanks to all you Grace Church parishioners who gave their time and energy for the fundraiser at Palace Poker. A special big “thank-you” to Bob Thomas who worked three late night shifts. I had never clerked at the Texas Hold ‘em tournament before, so it was somewhat of a learning experience for me also.

Palace Poker business is somewhat slower in the summer. Everyone who worked did more than their share. Expenses for this event include the license from the state, room rental at the Palace and food purchases for workers; which resulted in a net profit of \$2,936.

Our church is working the Palace Poker again on August 3, 4, 5 & 6. Hopefully our parish will fill the time slots so more monies can be raised in our effort to support our ministries. Three people can handle the 1st shift and 2 people at 2nd shift. Sign up sheets are in the parish hall now.

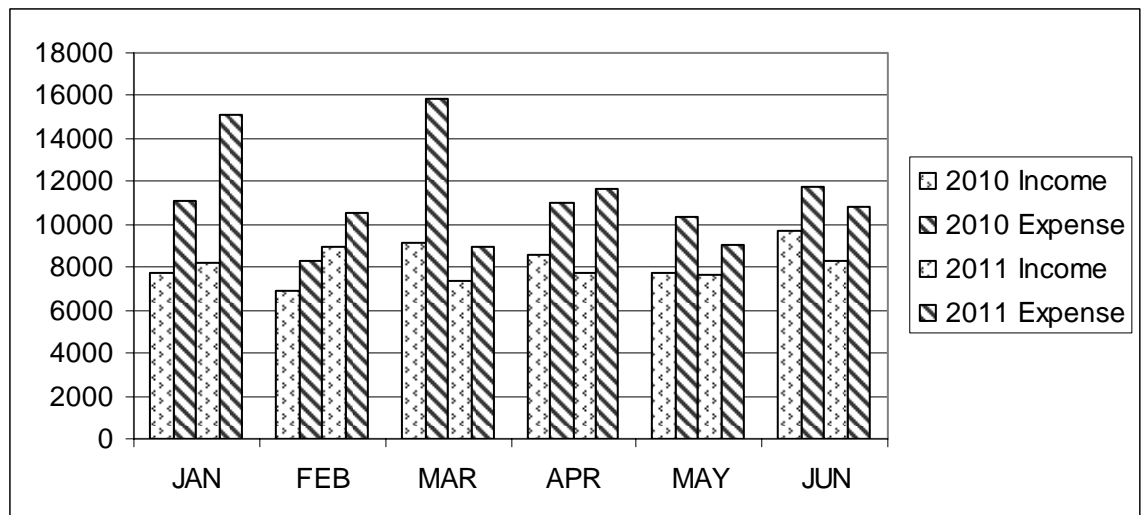
Bob Thomas has offered to work all four nights in August. Thank-you, thank-you Bob!

Judy Downey, Coordinator

DOLLARS & SENSE

JUNE FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings:	\$ 5,655.00	
Transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:	\$ 5,000.00	(\$18,000 ~ YTD)
Total month revenue:	\$ 8,263.54	
Total month expenses:	\$ 10,836.37	
Income-Expense:	(\$ 2,572.83)	
Year to date deficit:	(\$1,658.26)	
Total assets:	\$ 129,978.65	



	The Eighth after Pentecost August 7 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 14 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 21 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 28 HOLY EUCHARIST
Clergy Serving	The Rev. Nancy Steele	The Rev. Sue Rich	The Rev. Nancy Steele	The Rev. Sue Rich
Altar Guild	Sandra Arnold			
Altar Flowers	John Shepherd	Dick & Darlene West	Don & Nancy Wells	NEEDED
Sanctuary Candle	Judy Downey	Charlie Coutcher	Dick & Darlene West	NEEDED
Vestry Lockup	Dick West			
9:00 SERVICE				
Ushers/Greeters	Vicki McIntyre			
LEM	Kerry Spencer	Nancy Wells	Judy Downey	Nancy Wells
Lector 1*	Barb Scharping	Robert Thomas	Mary Kay Mason	Craig Arnold
Lector 2**	Jean Coon	Kerry Spencer	Nancy Wells	Sandy Arnold
Acolytes	Jessica Snipes		Josh Spencer	Nicky Bagadinski
	Jennie Spencer		Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski
				Jennie Spencer
Hospitality Hosts	Marcia Minimum Doris Rolland	NEEDED	NEEDED	NEEDED

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Kerry & Jennie Spencer

TRANSFERS IN

- FUNERAL/MEMORIAL**
8/4 Betty & Bob Bain Memorial

BAPTISMS/CONFIRMATION

WEDDINGS



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Stay cool this August

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

At the July meeting we approved the money to buy a new fryer for egg roll use, you may recall last year the one fryer quit and that really put a crimp and quality in our roll production. With the help of Jennie and Kerry, a purchase will be made so as to be ready for August 19th. Another item discussed was the use of the freezers in the garage and that concern was brought to the attention of the Senior Warden. Hope everyone is taking a look at the bulletin board in the hall and noting where the money we raise with all these fund raising events is used. Think the Palace Poker days will prove a success, all who worked the four days seem to have enjoyed it, Judy has done a wonderful job getting us trained and up to speed. Sign up sheets will be in the hall soon for the August days we have been assigned.

Barb Scharping,
ECW President

Food for Families Report—

We really are at a loss as of this writing as it becomes more and more difficult to try and predict just how many we will be preparing meals for each week. During the past month we have served anywhere from 32 to 75 per session (that's just first helpings). We try not to have too many leftovers so our rations vary and our ever vigilant servers really come through by offering up just the right size portions.

This past month we served Spaghetti with meatballs, salad, garlic bread and dessert; sloppy Joes with potato salad or chips, salad and watermelon; turkey pasta salad, pineapple slaw, green salad, rolls and peach crisp, fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, tossed salad, corn, biscuits and cake and Stroganoff with buttered noodles, green bean casserole, tossed salad, bread and butter and mixed melons.

The numbers at LACADA have been down but not at zero, which is where we'd like them to be. Each week there are a few women and unfortunately a few children.

We are fortunate to have the Farm market at Trinity Methodist available to us on Mondays so we have had some nice fresh salad greens during the past few weeks. We pray that soon the regular harvest will offer additional fresh vegetables.

Janie and Dutch Klotzner

FLINT RIVER VALLEY CONVOCATION

MINUTES – June 11, 2011

St. John's, Otter Lake

President's Report:

Mission Council meeting – still working on reorganization

A letter will be going out calling for more ideas and input on possibilities – trying to give the people in the pews more say in where church is heading.

48 churches in diocese and not near enough priests. The parishes that don't have priests often don't have funds to pay for supply priest.

Parish Updates:

St. Christopher's – Grand Blanc: Chris is doing a great job with VBS. Blessing of graduates is coming up which includes a foreign exchange student. Outreach is working on lunches for kids. Knitting group is working on scarves and hats for mariners and trying to get more people interested in helping.

St. Dunstan's – Davison: We continue to function with a supply priest. Bible studies continue. Meetings will start for planning the prayer vigil in November.

St. Andrew's – Flint: Our Friday, Saturday, and Sunday food program continues with some high school student volunteers for the summer. A special service is planned for Father's Day.

Trinity – Flushing: Tomorrow's service will include a background of wind sounds and wind chimes to represent the presence of the Holy Spirit. Flushing Relay for Life and Progressive Dinner are coming up. We are trying hard to provide lunches for kids.

St. John's – Otter Lake: Outreach need has not been as great, possibly because heating bills aren't as high in the summer. VBS will run through August 8th – 3 churches are involved. Graduates were honored at last Sunday's service. We finally have internet!

St. Jude's – Fenton: Special service planned for Father's Day. We will be having a truck load give-away on June 18th at 9:00 a.m. We will have several people reading in different languages for Pentecost Sunday. VBS is coming up. Sue C. is coming in October for Practicum. We finally have a WEB page.

Grace – Lapeer: Our fashion show was very successful. We have a yard sale coming up later this month.

St. Paul's – Flint: We will wear read and have speaking in tongues for Pentecost. We are working on upgrading our WEB so applications for priest can be made online. We have a food give-away scheduled for August 18th at 9:00 a.m. We are planning activities and church tours for Back to the Bricks. 300 people came through the church for last night's art walk. We are in the process of revamping the Children's Christian Formation.

St. John's – Dryden: We love having the Rev. Nancy Steele. Our garage sale was successful. We had our Pick the Hymn Potluck in May. We will honor grads this month. VBS is coming up.

The Rev. Nancy Steele continues to serve at Grace, Lapeer and St. John's, Dryden.

Next meeting – Saturday, August 13th – St. Jude's, Fenton.

Respectfully submitted by Vicki McIntyre

“Inconsistencies” by Garnet Haase

At work we were invited to participate in a “get healthy” program. Those who registered for the challenge are supposed to eat a combined total of five cups of fruits and vegetables per day. Since I take carrots and an apple to work with me every day, a co-worker encouraged me to sign up. So I did. The challenge runs between July 25th and September 4th.

On the first day, I ate ten cups of fresh stuff and thought I was going to blow up. Yesterday, I had a banana for lunch with a three by six inch piece of chocolate cake with chocolate icing. Hey, they were both sugar free. Of course the three cups of cookies and cream ice cream weren't. And I washed it all down with a 16 oz. glass of skim milk.

I may be a tad unclear of the concept. I had baked the cake because I decided to change my eating habits. Yeah, that's right. The cake mix and frosting were bought before my birthday but a friend made me a small cake so I didn't have to bake my own. But if I'm gonna try to eat healthier foods and lose my mushroom belly — I wonder if mushroom belly counts as a vegetable — then I have to get all the empty calorie goodies out of the house. That

means having to eat them. Yeah, yeah, yeah there's always the food pantry. Don't try to confuse me with the obvious alternatives.

It's funny how easy it is to live with inconsistencies in my life. For instance, I leave the dirty dishes in the sink and the clean dishes in the dish washer and the cupboards empty. There's just something wrong with that but I've been doing it with some regularity since 1974. It's even worse since I really like having a clean sink and counter. Go figure, huh?

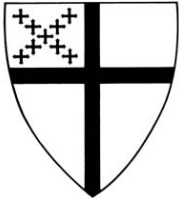
Or how about eating English muffins as soon as I get home from work and just before I go to work because they're fast and easy, only to have to devote hours, days, weeks, even months, to dissolving the fat those muffins so quickly packed onto me. And don't forget falling asleep wadded up in my chair with the television blaring and all the lights shining in my eyes because I'm too tired to go to bed.

So how am I supposed to deal with these inconsistencies in my life? Well, I could brow beat myself and tell myself I'm a miserable failure. Humm, that doesn't seem productive. Or I could pretend they don't exist and walk through life wearing blinders. Or let's see, I could keep doing what I've been doing for years and laugh at myself. Or maybe, just maybe, I could take some

baby steps toward eliminating them so my sink can be empty and my cupboards full, my diet can be balanced, and I could sleep in my bed in the dark and get the rest I need. So many choices.

In the midst of life's inconsistencies, God remains forever constant and consistent. We can cling to our Lord when our lives aren't as well ordered and balanced as we'd like them to be. Like a loving parent holding our hands when we take our first faltering steps as a child, so our Lord will support us as we take our baby steps toward eliminating the inconsistencies in our lives. Our inconsistent behaviors may hold us back from reaching our goals but God is always here to lift us up. To him be the glory.

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
Phone: 810-664-2841 ■ Fax: 810-664-7380
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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
Harold Schneider	Vestry Member		810-664-1398	Administration
Doris Stevenson	Vestry Member		248-909-0121	Marketing/Advertising
David Coon		Treasurer	810-797-4712	
	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. Nancy Steele	St. John's, Dryden
Vicki McIntyre	Bookkeeper			