

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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GRACEFUL TIDINGS

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2010

Reflections from Rev. Sue

Dear Grace Community of Faith,

Ahhhh, Advent is upon us and it is time to get ready. It's time to get ready for the One who is called Emmanuel, God With Us. It's time to get ready to receive Jesus into our hearts once again as he comes to us as an infant...God in human form.

It's a powerful and humbling thing to ponder the reality of God's never-ending love for us as exemplified in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We are fortunate, as Episcopalians, that we have a liturgical calendar that honors the church seasons of the year. Advent is the season that kicks it all off; four weeks of anticipation and preparing.

We will be hearing passages from scripture that remind us to get ready, not just for the birth of Jesus but, for the second coming of the Son of Man. The getting ready includes walking in God's light which is done when we focus our eyes on God and God's ways.

There will be prophecies from the Hebrew Scriptures of the shoot that shall come out from the stump of Jesse and from the New Testament of John the Baptist who prepares people for the coming of Jesus and his ministry. Descriptions will be made of generations of people living in the wilderness and on dry land that will be transformed as waters and rivers will break through the dryness and provide all manner of new life.

We will celebrate Mary's rejoicing with the knowledge that she was chosen to carry God in her womb and give birth to this child. And we will hear of Joseph's conversion by an angel to believe all Mary had told him.

Over the next four weeks I invite you into a place of preparation and anticipation for what is to come. There was no way for Mary or Joseph to know all that would transpire, they simply chose to trust that all was well and all would be well. There is no way for us to know all that will

transpire in our lives and walking the journey with Mary and Joseph may open us up to chose to trust that all is well and all will be well for us, too.

It's time to get ready, it's time to pause and let the Spirit of God bless you, bless us, bless the world. In your preparing, I hope you will set aside some quiet time throughout the week (dare I suggest daily?) that will allow space in your being to ponder the amazing gift that Jesus is to all.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Sue

VESTRY Meeting Highlights from October 13



Present: Nancy Wells, Richard West, Clyde Pearsall, Lauraine Ferris, Doris Stevenson, Dave Coon and Rev. Sue Rich **Guests:** Bishop Todd Ousley, Lori Schmidt and Vicki McIntyre

Opening prayer was led by Lauraine Ferris and meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval made of October 13, 2010 minutes with addition of description of supply tree that Lauraine Ferris is implementing to assist with savings.

Liaison Reports—Started with this to inform Bishop Ousley what is happening at Grace. Altar Guild needs to purchase new linens—Parish Life hosted pre-convention meeting and will be hosting the Advent Service on December 8th—Education opportunities would be available but have none at this time— Grounds—have furnaces ready for winter—leaf pick-up was complete with assistance from Craig Arnold—doors and windows have been painted with funding from Fillmore Thomas— Administration/Finance; running in red but bills are being paid-Advertising; looking at investing in placing ad on placemats— Worship committee is preparing for Advent services. Nick will be donating a sign to hang in regards to our Christmas Eve service.

Bishop Ousley reviewed the budget and discussed financial outlook at Grace. He had some recommendations on how financial reports need to better reflect our bottom line. Conversation on planning for long term by discussing what has gone well and work on progress for next year. Prepare strategy for future. There are some grant opportunities to look into for Grace—encouraged to apply.

Old Business: Dick informed that furnaces are ready and the cost was \$540. Lori reported that windows and doors are finished—paid and reimbursed by Fillmore. Rev. Sue spoke with Robert Thomas in regards to Townsend Fund and forming a committee, he has agreed to talk to potential members. Poker Palace dates are July 15-18 and August 3-6, more info will be forthcoming. Survey results on consultant goals will be discussed in December.

New Business: A motion was made to approve a \$15,000 Housing Allowance designated as Rev. Sue's parsonage allowance for 2011, support. *Approved.* The Letter of Agreement between Rev. Sue and Grace Church was distributed for review, will discuss in detail at December meeting. Lauraine will present in December the highlights from the leadership conference attended on November 6th. Rev. Sue shared that the Worship Committee has suggested that we offer rides to the Christmas Eve service to those who do not wish to drive at night or have no transportation available. The office will coordinate with those in need. Need to select 2011-2012 Bishop visit—will look at dates and determine at December meeting. Grace will be adopting a family from Holiday Depot—will use the supply tree as means to get suggestions for family wishes out.

Finance Report: Motion to approve budget as presented, support. *Approved.*

Priest Comments: Loves being with Grace—in January will host combined Vestry members at her home.

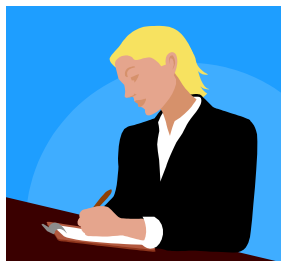
Next Vestry meeting will be December 2nd at 6:30 due to the Advent service on our regular meeting date.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Schmidt

Administrative Assistant

SENIOR WARDEN Report



I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving spending time with family and friends. What a great time of year!

Advent has begun and each week a different family will be lighting the Advent Wreath. Also, I hope as many of us will be able to attend the Wednesday Advent Services with the soup suppers. Please try to attend Wednesday, December 8th which will be hosted by Grace.

The Greening of the church will be Sunday, December 19th. After a soup lunch, we will prepare the Sanctuary for the Christmas season.

There will be a change in the Christmas Eve Service. At 7:00 P.M. we will have the Carol Sing and the Eucharist will take place at 7:30 P.M. The Worship Committee thought this would work out nicely for everyone. In addition, we will be offering Christmas Service Transportation for those needing a ride to the Service. Please let Lori know and we will make arrangements to have a ride available for you.

Here we are winding down 2010 and what a good year we have had with many changes.

We have come together with one combined service, and become ONE big family. We are fortunate to have Rev. Sue twice a month sharing her the other two Sundays with St. Johns's Dryden. Also, we have been fortunate to have four wonderful Sacramentalists, Nancy Steele, Russ Merrill, Ann Norton and Sarah Parks along with the two Deacons, Joann St. Pierre and Larry Parks who have given us so much of their time and friendship.

I'm sure there will be many more positive things happening at Grace in the future as we keep moving forward.

Nancy Wells
Senior Warden

We will be accepting nominations for candidates for Vestry. Please submit a small paragraph or two for a profile to be printed in January newsletter. This is a way you can help fulfill your stewardship to the church. We need people to fill the two positions that will be open.

To be considered, the qualifications are to be over the age of 16 years, baptized, and worship regularly.

You have until December 15, 2010 to get your nomination to Rev Sue; Clerk of the Vestry, Lauraine Ferris; or the office.

The Annual Meeting will be held in January. More details will follow.



NOMINATIONS

Food for Families Report– Dutch & Janie Klotzner

Greetings to all of you:

In that this is the time of year when we are giving thanks and are in the mood to share, I thought it would be appropriate to extend a huge ‘THANK YOU’ to all of our workers in the kitchen each Tuesday. We have a wonderful group of dedicated workers from our own congregation and have also had a few non-parishioners join us in this service. We are truly blessed to have so many who care and are happy to give of their time and energies each week.

Our numbers have remained fairly steady during the past month and our hope is that they do not increase as the weather turns colder. We’re more than willing to do what is needed to offer good meals but we’d wish it were not necessary in our wonderful community.

Again, many many thanks to all who serve in this mission and may God Bless...

Janie & Dutch



Be sure to check out the tree in the parish hall listing all the wishes for our Holiday Depot family. Lauraine would appreciate the items turned in by December 20th—unwrapped. If you do not want to shop and would like to help—you can make a cash donation or a check made to Grace Church with “family” in the memo section. You could also share an item with someone in the parish. There is such a huge demand in our community, and this is one way we can pull together and make a difference in the lives of this family. Thanks to all who are able to help.

Ecumenical Advent Service “NOT GOOD ENOUGH”



5:30 pm soup dinner
6:30 pm worship and talk

Date	Topic	Speaker	Location
12-1	The Magi	Rev. Niklaus C. Schillak	Immaculate Conception Church
12-8	The Shepherds	Rev. Todd Smith	Grace Episcopal Church
12-15	Jesus	Rev. Fr. Al Volskis	St. Matthews

*Grace Church will be participating in these services as we are the host on December 8th—
There will be a sign up sheet for soup/bread/workers in the Parish Hall.
We hope many from Grace will attend!*

	The Second Sunday of Advent December 5 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Third Sunday of Advent December 12 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19 HOLY EUCHARIST	The First Sunday After Christmas December 26 Lessons & Carols
Clergy Serving	Rev. Sarah Parks	Rev. Sue Rich	Rev. Russ Merrill	
Altar Guild	Sandy Arnold			
Altar Flowers	Dick & Darlene West	Dick & Darlene West	Bill & Lori Schmidt	Clyde & Nancy Pearsall
Sanctuary Candle	Dick & Darlene West	Bill & Lori Schmidt	Lorraine Kelch	Charlie Coutcher
Vestry Lockup	Clyde Pearsall			
9:00 SERVICE				
Ushers/Greeters	Cathy Webster			
LEM	Judy Downey	Kerry Spencer	Nancy Wells	
Lector 1*	Wilda Hopkins	Bob Thomas	Kerry Spencer	
Lector 2**	Nancy Wells	Dave Webster	Jean Coon	
Acolytes	Jessica Snipes	Jennie Spencer	Josh Spencer	
	Devin House		Amy Webster	
	Hayden House			
Hospitality Hosts	Dick & Darlene West	Dave & Jean Coon	Clyde & Nancy Pearsall	Barb & Deb Scharping

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Verna Valley
Steve Bagadinski
- 3 Elva Baird
Sandra Chapman
- 4 Della Hammond
- 7 Wilda Hopkins
- 14 Lorraine Kelch
- 16 Bill Schmidt
- 17 Jane Klotzner
- 20 Kerry Spencer
- 22 Amy Webster



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Bill & Verna Valley
- 29 Paul & Lauraine Ferris
- 30 Dave & Christina Watts

TRANSFERS IN

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL

BAPTISMS

WEDDINGS

Please Note:
Vestry Meeting Date Changed
to December 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

Alas, the fund raising activities are completed for the 2010 year.

A hearty Thank-you to everyone who has helped in any way during the entire year. Without everyone's dedication and hard work E.C.W. could not have managed to do all of the things they have this year.

Final Holiday Bazaar figures are:	Gross sale and donations	\$2,765.86
	Total Expenses	<u>313.82</u>
	Net Profit	\$2,452.04

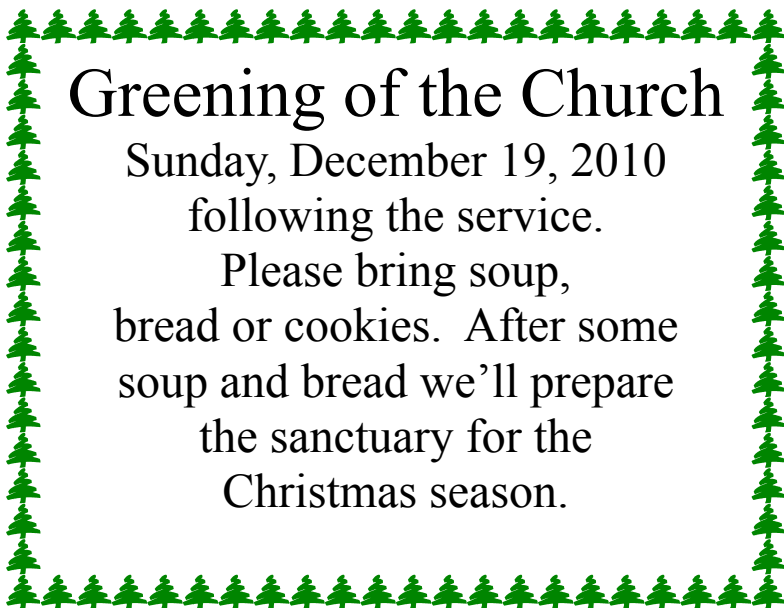
The Bazaar profit was down \$398.38 from 2009, but please remember Egg Roll profit was up \$451.85 from 2009. Thus we are still \$53.17 ahead in profit for 2010.

Great job everyone!



Poinsettia
Sale

Let's decorate!
Poinsettias will again be available for \$10 each. Call Lori at the office for more information. Delivery will be December 17, 2010



Greening of the Church
 Sunday, December 19, 2010
 following the service.
 Please bring soup, bread or cookies. After some soup and bread we'll prepare the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

Check it out!

LaVern Warner has created a Columbarium archival scrapbook. It is in the hall by the water fountain.

Feel free to look at it.

Doris Rolland



December 24, 2010

7:00 pm—Carol Sing

7:30 pm—Christmas Eve Service

If you would like to receive a ride to the service, please call the office to make arrangements.

There will be no service on Christmas Day.



Meeting Scheduled for:

December 11, 2010

9:00 a.m.

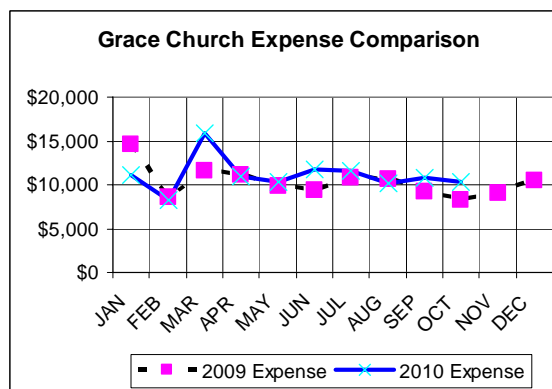
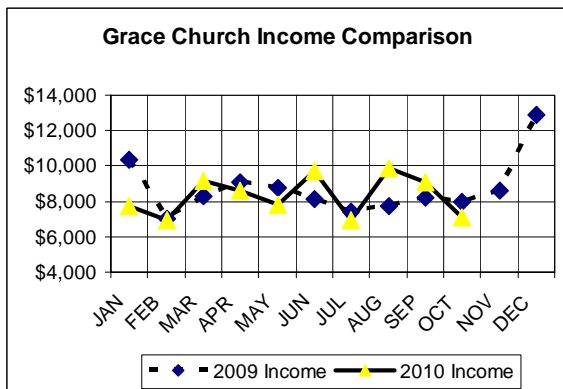
With the holidays just around the corner, I would like to invite all Altar Guild and persons interested in becoming altar guild members to come spruce up the altar by polishing the brass and silver. Many hands make light work; please plan to attend so we can get done in a timely manner.

Sandy Arnold

OCTOBER FINANCIALS



Pledge offerings:	\$ 4,610.00
Total revenue:	\$ 7,081.85
Total expenses:	\$ 10,315.13
Income-Expense:	(\$ 3,233.28)
Year to date deficit:	(\$ 28,217.07)
Total transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:	\$27,000.00
Total assets:	\$ 136,281.35



Do you remember...

Lapeer County Press

America's Largest Rural Weekly

SECTION D

Amusements, Sports
Building Edition

— 112TH YEAR, NUMBER 16

LAPEER, MICHIGAN—Thurs., May 4, 1950—Sec. D 1

EPISCOPAL PARISH HOUSE IS NEARLY DONE



The \$35,000 Grace Episcopal parish house at Lapeer is nearly completed. The rector's offices are about done, and the main upstairs room is being used for Sunday school classes. The women of the Guild are busy with plans to furnish the parish house, and a formal "opening" is planned in the near future. Downstairs is a large recreation room, and the central heating plant for the church and parish house.

FLOWERS & CANDLES

It's time to start thinking about Flowers and Candles for 2011. Anyone wishing to sign up for special dates, please call Nancy Wells, 664-9793. The openings are filling up quickly, so be sure to reserve your spot as soon as possible.

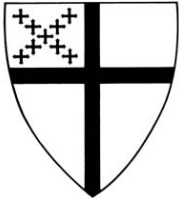


Ushers Needed



Looking for Ushers for the coming year. No experience required. If anyone would like to help out, please talk to Dave Webster after church or call him at 810-797-5565. It is a very easy/rewarding service.

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT VOLUNTEERED IN 2010!



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

735 West Nepessing Street
Lapeer, MI 48446

Phone: 810-664-2841 ■ Fax: 810-664-7380

E-mail: gracechurchlapeer@sbcglobal.net

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