

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](mailto:revsuerich@yahoo.com)

Cell: 810-706-0654

PH: 810.664-2841

EM: [gracechurchlapeer@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 14, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2012

## Reflections from Rev. Sue

Dear Grace Community,

The new year is underway and many of us have reflected on the past year and made resolutions for moving forward in 2012. Some of the goals set for 2011 were realized while other goals/resolutions were realized in part or not at all.

We can do the same kind of reflection on our spiritual lives by reviewing the Baptismal Covenant (this can be found in the Book of Common Prayer, pages 304-305). The Baptismal Covenant begins with stating our belief in God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is followed by five questions, which I've restated below.

In what ways have you continued in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

In what ways have you persevered in resisting evil, and, whenever you fell into sin, repented and returned to the Lord?

In what ways have you been proclaiming by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

In what ways have you sought and served Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

In what ways have you striven for justice and peace among all people, and respected the dignity of every human being?

Thinking and reflecting on these questions may rise up the desire to delve more deeply into how to better live into them. If so, I invite you to participate with others in doing so. We will use this time to prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith, to be received into the Episcopal Church or to be confirmed. Please see Rev. Sue and we will determine when to meet for the six sessions.

On Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 8:00pm there will be a regional confirmation/reception/reaffirmation liturgy at St. John's Episcopal Church in Midland. It is at this service that the participants will be presented to the bishop by me and receive the laying on of hands.

If your reflection on these questions has stirred in you a desire to be more intentional in your bible study there is a new bible study that focuses on the Sunday Gospel readings for the Sundays in Lent. This bible study can be done on your own or with others. Copies can be downloaded from the diocesan website

([www.eastmich.org](http://www.eastmich.org)) or obtained from the office. Lent is early this year beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, and we will have Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes at 12:15pm. For those not able to attend this service you are invited to attend at St. John's Episcopal Church, Dryden (4074 S. Mill Street) at 7:00pm.

Also going on again will be the Lapeer Ministerial Association's Lenten program. Each Wednesday from the last Wednesday in February through the last Wednesday in April a different church will host a soup supper followed by a service in which different pastors will preach. The details of this are yet to be determined and we will let you know soon. I invite you to these wonderful events and pray that your Lent will be one filled with abounding Grace.

Rev. Sue



## VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS ~ January 11

Attendance: Nancy Wells, Dick West, Doris Stevenson, Harold Schneider, Clyde Pearsall, Lauraine Ferris, Rev. Sue Rich.

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. by Nancy as Rev. Sue was running late. Prayer by Lauraine.

Motion to approve **December minutes** was made, supported. *Passed.* Clyde asked if clergy coach request was totally denied or could be revisited later. Nancy said it was done for now but could be looked at later. Minutes approved as written.

Dick brought up need to get new insides for **toilets**. Harold will get them with his discount at the hardware and Dick will install them.

Rev. Sue apologized for being late and explained that it is a canonical responsibility of the priest to lead vestry and annual meetings which is why there has been a change.

**Old Business: Grant update**-Paul Parsch was here and gave a new quote of \$3,780 to paint the church. The increase is due to increased cost of paint. He needs the heat up for a week before painting so the walls are warm. It will take 4 days to 2 weeks depending on how much help he has. The grant request can now go in. It was suggested to go ahead with painting to get it done before Easter and if the grant goes through to repay part of what it cost the church. Motion to go ahead and paint the church was made, supported. *Passed.* **Draft of Annual Meeting Agenda**-The location will be in the nave as last year. Reports are due to Lori by the 19th so she can get it together. Liaisons need to contact groups to remind them of the due date of reports. Official counters are usually the outgoing vestry members (Dick and Clyde) but as they are running for reelection along with Mary Kay Mason, Doris and Harold will be the counters. **Mutual Ministry Review** -We talked briefly about the packet we received which explains more about it. Rev. Sue asked us to ponder "What is God's dream for Grace?" Heather Barta will facilitate again and the cost will be about the same as last year. Doris asked the difference between an evaluation and mutual ministry review and was referred to the packet for information.

**New Business: Columbarium Application**-as per the application requirements, Rev. Sue granted an emergency request to Donna Aukett's family. **Toilets**-see previous discussion at beginning of meeting. **Letter of Agreement**-Rev. Sue gave us the schedule for special events for 2 years. We discussed the financial pages. Motion made by Dick, second by Clyde to accept with 2 corrections on page 1 and clarification of figures with Vicki on page 2. Voting will happen via email when we receive clarification. **Clergy Rotation**-They are planning 3 months at a time. We will have Nancy Steele, Ann Norton (6 times a year), and Sarah Parks (more often) as Sacramentalists. Sue Colavincenzo of St. Dunstan's in Davison has been taking training at Coppage-Gordon and will soon be ordained a transitional deacon. Rev. Sue is her mentor. She will probably join the group later and preach once a quarter. Rev. Sue will be at Davison 2 Sundays a year. Corunna is completely out of the mix.

**Finance Report:** Motion was made to approve the financial report as presented, support. *Passed.*

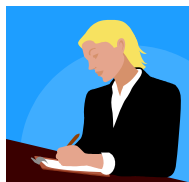
**Priest's Comments:** Rev. Sue explained she is logging everything she does for the next 3 months and hopes it helps with people knowing what she does. She will give it to us every month and it can be in the newsletter or bulletin so the congregation knows. She gave us what pastoral visits she has done recently. Bernita Hawes son, Jamie, is ill and she has visited him and spoken with Bernita. Lauraine will get a card for all to sign to let Bernita know we are thinking of them. Rev. Sue has also seen Lorraine Kelch, Morna Glancy, Virginia Cook, Midge Baker, and Harold Cook. She speaks with Twila frequently and next week the Wednesday noon Bible study group will be going to Twila's.

Meeting closed at 8:10 p.m. with prayer by Dick.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lauraine Ferris*

Lauraine Ferris, clerk of the vestry.

# SENIOR WARDEN Report



We have received a from bid from Paul Parsch to repair cracks and paint the Sanctuary. The longest it will take is 2 weeks, however the pews will not need to be moved. The worse thing that can happen is that we would have Sunday Service in the Parish Hall and that isn't a bad thing. We are hoping to have it completed for Easter. The Grant request is ready to be submitted to the Diocese and we hope the process won't be long.

January 25, the Vestry participated in a Mutual Ministry Review with Heather Barta as our facilitator. We did a review of the previous Mutual Ministry Review from last year and how we each had contributed toward reaching our goals. There was discussion on what God's dream is for Grace Church and the pieces of that dream we will concentrate on for the next 12 months. It's a very helpful process for your Vestry to go through with a lot of positive ideas in the end for moving forward.

January 29, we held the Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary with a wonderful potluck following. If you were unable to attend, please let Lori know and she will see that you get a copy of the booklet with all the reports.

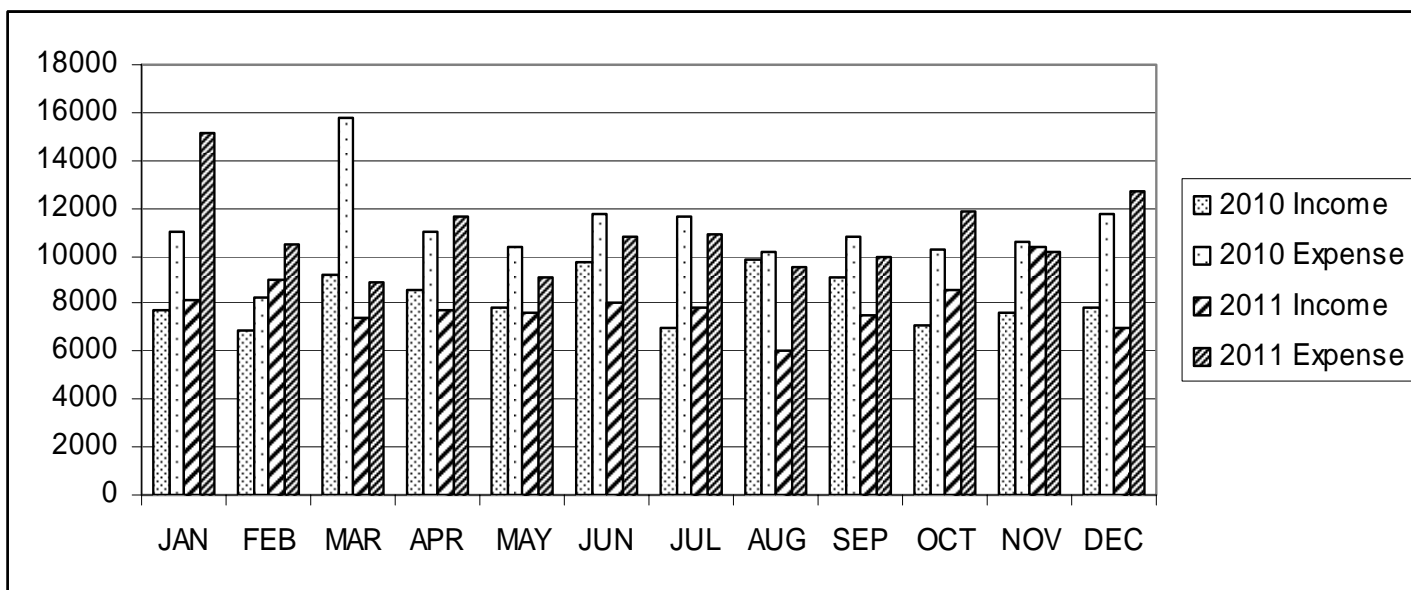
Again, thank you for another year of your support and confidence in me as your Senior Warden.

*Nancy Wells, Senior Warden*



## DECEMBER FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings:	\$ 3,917.43	
Transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:	\$	(\$34,000 ~ YTD)
Total month revenue:	\$ 6,947.80	
Total month expenses:	\$ <u>12,726.36</u>	
Income-Expense:		(\$ 5,778.56)
Total assets:	<b>\$ 111,239.31</b>	



	<b>The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</b>  February 5  HOLY EUCHARIST	<b>The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</b>  February 12  HOLY EUCHARIST	<b>The Last Sunday after the Epiphany</b>  February 19  HOLY EUCHARIST	<b>The First Sunday in Lent</b>  February 26  HOLY EUCHARIST
Clergy Serving	The Rev. Nancy Steele	The Rev. Sue Rich	The Rev. Nancy Steele	The Rev. Sue Rich
Altar Guild	Lauraine Ferris, Barb Scharping & Judy Chown			
Altar Flowers	Ted & Harriet Burder	Lorraine Kelch	Terry & Barb Cook	<b>LENT</b>
Sanctuary Candle	Clyde & Nancy Pearsall	Clyde & Nancy Pearsall	Abi Warner	Judy Downey
Vestry Lockup				
<b>9:00 SERVICE</b>				
Ushers/Greeters	Harold & Pat Schneider			
LEM	Nancy Wells	Jennie Spencer	Nancy Wells	Judy Downey
Lector 1*	Mary Kay Mason	Barb Scharping	Robert Thomas	Craig Arnold
Lector 2**	Jean Coon	Jennie Spencer	Nancy Wells	Sandy Arnold
Acolytes			Josh Spencer	Nicky Bagadinski
			Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski
				Jennie Spencer
Hospitality Hosts		Eldon & Vonnie Card Vicki McIntyre		

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 13 Margery Hutton
- 15 Virginia Cook
- 21 Midge Baker
- Morna Glancy
- 22 Harold Cook
- Dave Coon
- 24 Judy Downey
- 25 Nancy Pearsall

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 10 Dave & Cathy Webster
- 14 Ted & Harriet Burder
- 15 Clyde & Nancy Pearsall

**TRANSFERS IN**

**FUNERAL/MEMORIAL**

**BAPTISMS/CONFIRMATION**

**WEDDINGS**



## ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

We did not hold a meeting in January as there was a conflict with another event on our usual second Sunday of the month date. We will be meeting on February 12th and it will be an important day as we will be deciding on the events and dates for 2012. Do come and voice your views.

*Barb Scharping*  
ECW President

**Congratulations...**

to Andrew & Michele  
Weakley on the birth of their  
daughter, Raven, born on January  
19<sup>th</sup> weighing in at 5# 15oz and 19 inches long.  
God's blessings to all!



## Food for Families Report-

January has been a busy month for Food for Families. We have served 347 meals of tuna noodle casserole, fried chicken, meatloaf, sweet and sour chicken, and beef brisket. Four of the afternoon crew took a Civil Rights Training which is required by the USDA for all groups who use products from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in their feeding programs.

We have received some wonderful donations this month. Generous monetary donations from Energy Steel and the Travel Club along with some small hams that Goodfellows had left from Christmas baskets will help us to put on some nice meals for our guests.

Thanks again to our wonderful crew for their great work in helping Food for Families reach out to so many people.

*Lauraine Ferris and LaVern Warner*

## “Rejoicing in the Wind” by Garnet Haase

Yesterday the wind howled in the trees and shrubs around my house. I’d mute the television periodically just to listen to the wind gusts. Ever since I was a child I’ve loved the wind, the sound of it, the feel of it, even the smell of it on occasion.

Wind, in its many forms, holds special memories for me. The fierce winds of March help to dry up the snow and rain soaked ground getting it ready for planting and promise new life. Freshening late spring breezes that billow curtains and clear away the stale air of winter give me a feeling of hope.

Summer breezes cool our homes and fill them with the scent of mown grass, and the happy sounds of frogs croaking, dogs barking and children laughing. But at times those breezes turn into thunderstorms and tornadoes, flipping the green leaves to show their silvery underbellies.

Those savage winds can twist trees until they snap, tear down barns, crush homes, fling semi-trucks across highways, carry torrential rains that flood the lowlands and cause injuries, even death. Storms can be terrifying and destructive but though I don’t want anyone’s property dam-

aged or bodies injured, I still like to watch storms from under-cover.

I’ve known the excitement of being blown across the water in a sailboat on a hot summer day. I’ve stood on a ledge in the White Mountains of Arizona and been serenaded by the hushed voices of the wind in the pines at sunset. I’ve had the steering yoke of my plane almost ripped from my hands as I fought to land before the unexpected storm threw me to the ground.

I’ve lounged on Florida’s Gulf Coast caressed by the cooling sea breeze. Why I’ve even left the warmth and safety of indoors to venture into blizzards — briefly — just ’cause it’s fun. Well, it is ... as long as I don’t have to drive in them.

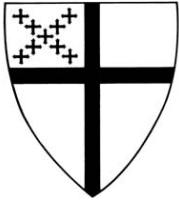
Yep, I like wind. But there’s a wind that is more special than any other. The Holy Spirit, that’s right, the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2 it reads, “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...”

The Holy Spirit comforts

me when I’m grieving, strengthens me when I’m weak, guides me when I’m lost, encourages me when I’m afraid, sustains me when I’m weary, “intercedes with sighs too deep for words,” when I don’t know how I ought to pray. The Holy Spirit gives us his fruit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

When Jesus returned to heaven he didn’t leave us alone. He sent his Holy Spirit to be with us always and help us as we live out each day of our lives, no matter what kind of wind is blowing. Whether we’re facing storms or delighting in the balmy breezes, our Lord is with us, sustaining us and protecting us. Is it any wonder I love the Wind?

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*

735 West Nepessing Street  
 Lapeer, MI 48446

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

E-mail: [gracechurchlapeer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gracechurchlapeer@sbcglobal.net)

Web site: [www.gracechurchlapeer.org](http://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		