

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 13, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2011

Reflections from Rev. Sue

State of the Church 2011
Grace, Lapeer

2010 was a year of excitement and getting to know one another. We began our journey together as I became rector half-time and as four priests offered their time, care and liturgical leadership on a rotation basis. I would like to thank priests Russ Merrill, Ann Norton, Sarah Parks and Nancy Steele and deacons Larry Parks and Joanne St. Pierre who faithfully served us throughout the year.

The liturgy is done well here at Grace and there are many who make that happen. Nick Ward leads our choir with skill and compassion and we are grateful. Thank you, Nick. Thank you, choir for your hours of practice, dedication and care. Thanks also go out to Judy Downey and Bob Thomas who lead worship as needed and to Garnet Haas for her offering of preaching. Jennie Spencer leads the Worship Team and keeps us on track. Your commitment to serving God in many capacities is evident. Thank you, Jennie.

What would our worship space be without the faithfulness of the altar guild led by Sandy Arnold? All that you do to keep this space beautiful and fresh provides for us a space conducive to worship. Thank you. Thank you, Josh Spencer and all the acolytes for your continued service during worship. Thank you to all the Eucharistic ministers and lectors. You are all well-trained and confident in your tasks, which paves the way for spiritual cleanliness and grace. Thank you, Dave Webster and the ushers for your important role of welcoming us as we enter the worship space. Thank you, to all.

The leadership of our vestry has been very capable, competent and pleasant. Thank you, Nancy Wells for your leadership as senior warden and the many behind-the-scenes things you do for the good of all. You are diligent and tenacious in the tasks at hand and those many unnoticed things make Grace a better place. Thank you, Nancy. Dick West has served faithfully as junior warden by caring well for the building and grounds. There have been many times when he comes to make the buildings, walkways, parking lot and grounds look good. Dick, thank you, for all your time and effort, we are grateful. At this Annual Meeting Nancy Wells has completed her three-year term and Dave Coon has completed his one-year completion of an open term. Thank you both for your service and commitment to Grace.

Dave Coon has also served as treasurer and Vicki McIntyre as bookkeeper and we are thankful for the hours of time you spend to make sure our finances are done in a timely fashion and with accuracy. Thanks loads, Dave and Vicki. Thank you, Lauraine Kelch and Della Hammond who count the money each week. And then there's Lori Schmidt who serves with great joy and skill. We are so very fortunate to have a secretary with the kinds of gifts and talents she exhibits with such efficiency. Thank you, Lori.

Doris Stevenson has taken on the task of publications and getting our name and activities available out in the community. Thank you, Doris. Thank you, Kerry Spencer for your service as convocation representative in 2010. Thank you Pat Schneider for putting together the beautiful history book of clergy photos who have served in this place, to Dave and Jean Coon whose friend took our photograph on Pentecost and to the family memorial of Darlene West's which provided the lovely frame. What a wall of joy and hope this has created!

VESTRY Highlights from December 2, 2010



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

Opening prayer was led by Richard West and meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Approval made of November 10, 2010 meeting minutes as presented.

Lauraine Ferris presented an overview from the Diocese Leadership Conference she and Rev. Sue attended in November. A follow-up from last spring session – was very interesting information – statistics shared – This is a time of change and tension – need to respect differences.

Old Business: Townsend Fund Committee update – tabled until January. Letter of Agreement for Rev. Sue will be held in January with a liaison leading. The rotation schedule of priests for 2011 is being worked on – two months at a time. The results of the congregation survey data was reviewed and will be held until February after Annual meeting and new Vestry in place. Dates were discussed for Bishop Ousley visit – sent in and will inform parish when date is received. Nancy received the information on the advertising placemat for Bryan’s – The cost is being paid for by Don & Nancy Wells – Lori, Nancy and Agency will design.

New Business: The Annual Meeting will be held on January 30th – Rev. Sue will switch her visit with Corunna so she can be here on the 5th Sunday. Nancy explained that a donation of stock may be given and the process needed by Vestry – will wait to see if this happens in 2011. A columbarium purchase was requested, motion to approve, support. *Approved.* Discussion on grant application to cover painting of church will be discussed at the February meeting.

Finance Report: With the meeting so early in month – haven’t completed the financial reports.

Liaison Reports: Lauraine needs help with the Advent Service meal – Thrift Shop having slower times.

Priest Comments: Rev. Sue attended the ECW meeting to get understanding of their funding and services, felt it went well. She is planning for 2011 – things are going well.

Rest of meeting was to brainstorm what is the scenario for Grace – funding, leadership, future, etc.

Closing prayer was led by Clyde Pearsall – meeting adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Next Vestry meeting will be the Annual Meeting on January 30th.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Schmidt
 Administrative Assistant

State of the Church 2011 Con't from page 1

Thank you, Kathleen Levitt for your quiet but faithful weekly cleaning of the interior portion of the buildings. It's so nice to have clean space to better serve - which leads me to the offering of hospitality and parish life that Lauraine Ferris heads up and to the coordination of funeral meals led by Nancy Pearsall, the quiet but diligent organization of the food pantry by Joan Schwartz and, of course, Dutch and Janie Klotzner and the faithful servers of Food For Families – Lauraine Ferris, LaVern Warner, and Doc Henry among others. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Of course, another big ministry is the Thrift Shop. Thank you, Judy Downey for your service of leadership and to those who serve: Darlene West, Doris Stevenson, Abi Warner, Kaye Kneeshaw, Sandy Chapman and Lauraine Ferris. The kind words and ministry of compassion that is shared by you and the Food For Families folk provide make a difference in the lives of those who come in need.

And last but certainly not least, I want to thank Barb Sharping for her service as Episcopal Church Women president and coordinator of egg rolls. You and all who are a part of ECW do much to build the Kingdom of God and I thank you.

There's no way to express fully the gratitude for the numerous ways in which so many serve God through service to others. This is a place that has a history of living out social justice and I look forward to doing more of this in the future.

As we look ahead to this year of 2011 there is much for which we may look forward. The rotating clergy have agreed to continue their ministry among us with one exception. The Rev. Nancy Steele and her family have discerned a call to live out their life and ministry outside the walls of St. Paul's, Corunna. This means two things. First, Russ will be providing all the priestly leadership at St. Paul's and second, Nancy will be a bit more active in the rotation with Russ' absence. She and I are in conversation with Bishop Todd as to what this may look like...more will be revealed.

The vestry and I completed a Mutual Ministry Review facilitated by The Rev. Heather Barta. I commend the report to your reading. In February we will be hosting the combined Blue Water/Flint River Convocation clericus gathering and in March we will be hosting a two-day training for Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors. Please speak to me if you are interested in this training.

On Sunday, April 10th Bishop Todd will be joining us for his pastoral visit. This is a time for baptism, confirmation, the renewing of baptismal vows and reception into the Episcopal Church. There will be preparation classes for all those participating. Please prayerfully consider whether this may be a time for you to do this.

Lauraine Ferris and I are in the process of putting a pastoral visitation team together and a schedule of our home parishioners that would like regular visits or phone calls. We will be approaching each of you to offer you the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

We will again be participating in the Lenten and Advent ecumenical Wednesday evening programs. One of the other things the vestry and I have been looking into is a four-part series on end of life issues that we will offer to the wider community at no cost. The specific details have yet to be worked out but we're hoping to provide this each Wednesday evening in May. Sessions will include information on planning your finances for later years, legal counsel regarding advance directives and wills, funeral planning and funeral service planning. We will keep you posted.

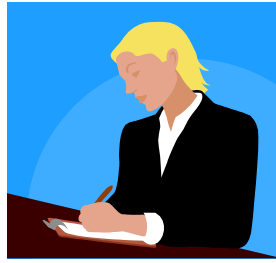
I will continue to serve alongside your vestry as we address the financial deficit and pledge reduction for 2011 as well as the many wonderful things happening. Of course, we all look forward to much fellowship and fun as we join together with the ECW events and most especially making egg rolls!

It is an honor to be serving God with you and I am grateful for our time together so far and the time we'll share in the future.

The 2011 Epiphany Royalty!



SENIOR WARDEN Report



Finally, February is here and we are on the downhill side of winter! Let's hope that groundhog sees his shadow and Spring will arrive on time.

When the Bishop visited our recent Vestry meeting we discussed the hopes of having the inside of the church painted, since it has been many years. There is patching that needs to be done before the painting. We were told that it may be possible for us to receive a Grant from the Diocese. If there is anyone who could help with the writing of this request, please call the office or talk to Rev. Sue or myself.

This is a very blah time of the year having to stay inside , however, if we could just take a minute to call a Home Parishioner or someone we haven't seen in Church for a while just to say "hi" it would be appreciated.

More exciting news to follow next month!

Nancy Wells, Sr. Warden



EDDIE WEST & LAPEER STUDENT LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Eddie West will be performing at the Lapeer Country Club on Saturday, February 12, 2011. All proceeds from the event will go towards the Lapeer Student Loan and Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$10 each and will be available at the door, or may be purchased in advance from Lapeer West High School or Nick Ward.

It is sure to be a great evening out for a worthy cause. The band is made up of current and former teachers, students, and friends, and plays a variety of classic rock (featuring our "Horn Dogs"). Come celebrate Valentine's Day with the "*loveliest*" band in Lapeer!

FYI

On February 7-10, Lori will be on vacation, and Rev. Sue will be attending a continuing education retreat— so if you need to contact someone, please call Nancy Wells, Sr.

Warden and she will make pastoral arrangements if necessary. The wonderful Thrift Shop volunteers are also great about answering phone calls

	The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 6 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 13 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany February 20 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany February 27 HOLY EUCHARIST
Clergy Serving	Rev. Nancy Steele	Rev. Sue Rich	Rev. Nancy Steele	Rev. Sue Rich
Altar Guild	Sandra Chapman & Jean Coon			
Altar Flowers	Ted & Harriet Burder	Lorraine Kelch	Harold & Virginia Cook	NEEDED
Sanctuary Candle	Clyde & Nancy Pearsall	Clyde & Nancy Pearsall	NEEDED	Charlie Coutcher
Vestry Lockup	Nancy Wells			
9:00 SERVICE				
Ushers/Greeters	Doris Rolland			
LEM	Nancy Wells	Judy Downey	Jennie Spencer	Kerry Spencer
Lector 1*	Barb Scharping	Bob Thomas	Kerry Spencer	Judy Downey
Lector 2**	Nancy Wells	Dave Webster	Jean Coon	Mary Kay Mason
Acolytes	Jessica Snipes	Devin House	Josh Spencer	Nick Bagadinski
	Jennie Spencer	Hayden House	Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski
				Jennie Spencer
Hospitality Hosts	Craig & Sandy Arnold	Dick & Darlene West		Barb Scharping

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 13 Margery Hutton
- 15 Virginia Cook
- 21 Morna Glancy
- 22 Midge Baker
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/DEATH

BAPTISMS

WEDDINGS



ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

ECW met on the third Sunday in January and elected the officers for the next two years. We wish to welcome our reelected incumbent members and Mary Kay as our new secretary. The budget for 2011 was approved. Meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of each month.

We would appreciate any new fundraiser ideas that you can think of. Please bring them to our second Sunday of the month meeting.

Thanks,
Barb Scharping

Food for Families Report– Dutch & Janie Klotzner

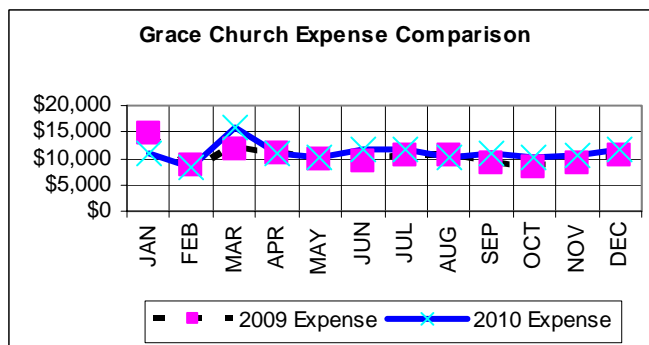
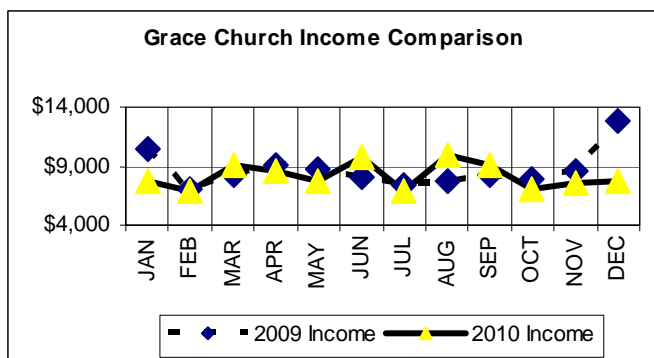
Something new has begun on Tuesdays. The Food For Families Program is now offering 'hot soup' to warm folks up on these cold winter days. From 3:15 until 3:45p.m., we will be serving small bowls of hot soup prior to the 4:00p.m., serving of the main meal. This will offer those waiting to be served, an opportunity to get in out of the elements to warm up a bit.

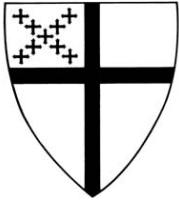
A big thanks you all of you that volunteer each week. Your participation is truly appreciated.



DECEMBER FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings:	\$ 5,024.00
Total revenue:	\$ 7,787.86
Total expenses:	\$ 11,757.42
Income-Expense:	(\$ 3,969.56)
Year to date deficit:	(\$ 35,124.48)
Total transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:	\$35,000.00
Total assets:	\$ 145,988.81





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
 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. Nancy Steele	
Vicki McIntyre	Bookkeeper		