

GRACE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

735 W NEPESSING

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY

8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:15 Christian Ed (all ages)

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

WEEKDAYS MORNINGS

8:30am Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAYS—

12:15pm Holy Eucharist w/Fr. Boli

Followed by Bible Study &

Brown Bag Lunch

CLERGY

The Rev Wm Boli, Priest in Residence

(wwboli@charter.net)

PH: 810.664-2841

EM: gracechurchlapeer@sbcglobal.net

STAFF

Lori Schmidt, Admin. Assistant

Vicki McIntyre, Bookkeeper

Paul Allison, Sexton

Nick Ward, Music Director

OFFICE HOURS

Monday— 9:00a-4:00p

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

Friday—Closed

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GRACEFUL TIDINGS

VOLUME II, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2009

Presiding Bishop's Christmas Message 2008

[Episcopal News Service]

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5).

The world settles into winter, at least in the northern hemisphere, and life to many seems increasingly bleak. Foreclosures, layoffs, government bailouts and financial failures, continuing war on two fronts, terrorist attacks, murders of some identified only by their faith -- this world is in abundant need of light. We know light that is not overcome by darkness, for God has come among us in human flesh. Born in poverty to a homeless couple, to a people long under

occupation, Jesus is with us in the midst of the world's darkness. Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, Divine Counselor come among us to remind, re-member, and re-create. A new mind and heart is birthed in us as we turn to follow Jesus on the way. The body of God's creation is remembered and put back together in ways intended from the beginning. And a new creation becomes reality through Jesus' healing work. Christians tell the story again each Christmas-tide, and the telling and remembering invites us once again into being made whole. Our task in

every year is to hear the story with new ears, and seeing light in the darkness of this season's woes, then to tell it abroad with gladsome hearts to those who wait in darkness. Where will you share the joyous tale of light in the darkness?

**The Most Rev.
Katharine
Jefferts Schori**
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church



VESTRY Meeting Highlights from December 10



Present: Doris Stevenson, Lori Coulter, Judy Downey, Lauraine Ferris, Jennie Spencer, Eldon Card, Nancy Wells, LaVern Warner and Fr. Boli.

Excused: Joyce Moore

Guests: Lori Schmidt, Doris Rolland, Vicki McIntyre and Rev. Engle.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Sr. Warden, Judy Downey.

Devotions were led by Sr. Warden Downey.

Minutes from the November 12, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

Old Business: The 2007 audit has been completed and mail to the Diocese. Vestry minutes reflecting the approval was also included in the mailing. The dates Grace Church selected for Bishop Ousley visit in 2009 had been taken, so three other options were discussed and will be sent to the diocese for scheduling. Sr. Warden Downey informed the vestry that she had received notice from Bishop Ousley that money will not be coming from the Convocation to cover the cost of the consultant. She indicated that there is enough funds to cover that portion in the Townsend Education fund. Dave Coon has accepted the position of Treasurer. He will be meeting with Lynne Coulter to prepare the 2009 budget, which will need to be approved at the January meeting. Fr. Boli informed them that he is declining the salary increase that was approved at the November meeting.

Columbarium Report: Doris Rolland presented another vendor she has received information on. The Vestry will have one more presentation and then will make decision.

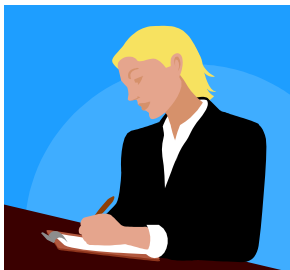
Finance Report: Vicki indicated we may need to make a small withdrawal to cover year end expenses—depending on pledge receipts.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. with closing prayer from Nancy Wells.

The evening continued with Rev. Engle, consultant, working with Vestry to review data collected and develop timeline of Clergy at Grace.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Schmidt
Administrative Assistant



I've prayed that all of you have had a holy and happy holiday season. The greatest gift any of us can receive is the one that God gave us that Christmas morning, his son, to bring us God's holy word and forgiveness of all our sins. I thank all of you at the end of this year for the generous giving of your time and monies so that we can continue to serve God and his community at Grace, Lapeer. We will hold a silent auction on February 15th so that ECW can continue to do outreach ministry and pay a portion of the churches utility cost. So be thinking of what precious items you can donate. Watch for more details.

We still do not have the recommended number of applicants for the Vestry board. Please give this considerate prayer and thought regarding your opportunity to serve God and your church in this capacity.

Judy Downey, Sr. Warden

SAVE THE DATE...

January 18, 2009

Preparation for the Annual Meeting is progressing. If you have been a Chairperson of a committee, please prepare your statement for the Annual Report booklet and have it in the office by January 9th. The potluck lunch/meeting will immediately follow the 10:00 service.



We will be voting for two new vestry members to replace those leaving. We will also be voting for our convention delegates. There will be a recap of 2008 and plans for the coming new year.

WHO AM I? Meet the Members of Grace

By Doris Rolland

(A column written to help church members know each other better.)

I was born in California and moved to Michigan at one and a half. Episcopalian all my life, I've worshipped at St. Luke's in Utica where I was confirmed, and Grace church in Mt. Clemens, the church where in which my husband and I were married. I married my high school sweetheart. How did we meet? Well, the second hour class he drew a picture on the desk. The eighth hour class, I was sitting at the same desk. He walked by and arranged for us to meet. The rest is history.

We lived in Detroit for four years and decided we wanted to live in the country. I found Grace church in Lapeer through the telephone book. We came. I joined the choir. I love choir work and have sung in a choir throughout my entire schooling. "Choir is important to me", our mystery person says. "I've sung soprano, alto and tenor. Tenor is not easy. In addition, I studied clarinet five years and piano, about four."

My husband is a master electrician and helped set up the clavynova at church. I hold a B.A. in Education from Oakland University. I am an avid reader.

We are blessed with one son who is adopted and would welcome more children. He is the joy of our lives, so we became den leaders.

My husband and I traveled to Scotland for our 20th anniversary. "It was wonderful", says our mystery lady.

I used to enjoy downhill skiing but it has taken a back burner because of other duties.

We have a dog and two cats and all three of us like animals.

Who am I? Answer on Page 7

	The Second Sunday after Christmas Day January 4 HOLY EUCHARIST	The First Sunday the Epiphany January 11 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Second Sunday the Epiphany January 18 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Third Sunday the Epiphany January 25 HOLY EUCHARIST
Altar Guild	Lauraine Ferris and Barb Scharping			
Altar Flowers	Morna Glancy			Judy Downey
Sanctuary Candle	Dick & Darlene West	Bill & Lori Schmidt	Paul Allison Sr.	Charlie Coutcher
Vestry Lockup				

8:00AM SERVICE

Ushers/Greeters	Bob Coulter & Jack Hutton			
LEM	Eldon Card	Judy Downey	Nancy Wells	Judy Downey
Lector	Charlie Coutcher	Lori Schmidt	Nancy Wells	Tracey House
Acolyte	Eldon Card	Judy Downey	Nancy Wells	Judy Downey
Hospitality Host				

10:00AM SERVICE

Ushers/Greeters				
LEM	Jennie Spencer	Wilda Hopkins	Judy Downey	Jennie Spencer
Lector 1*	Dennis DeLeonard	Wilda Hopkins	Barb Scharping	Craig Arnold
Lector 2**	Jean Coon	Bob Thomas	Peg Supernault	Sandy Arnold
Acolytes	Miranda Snipes	Josh Spencer	Miranda Snipes	Josh Spencer
	Jessica Snipes	NEEDED	Jessica Snipes	NEEDED
	Amy Webster	Nicky Bagadinski	Amy Webster	Nicky Bagadinski
Hospitality Hosts	Snipe Family	Dave & Jean Coon	Maria Bagadinski	Dave & Cathy Webster

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Debra Kreger
- 4 Jessica Snipes
- 7 Clyde Pearsall
- 17 Mike Supernault
- 23 Barb Wilson
- 24 Sherry Russell
- 25 Joyce Moore
- 29 Phyllis Caley
- 30 Harriet Burder

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Bill & Lori Schmidt
- 17 Harold & Deloris Lamphier

TRANSFERS IN

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL
12/9/08 Maxine Allison

BAPTISMS

WEDDINGS

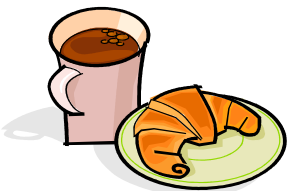


**Birthdays
& Anniversaries**

JANUARY 2009

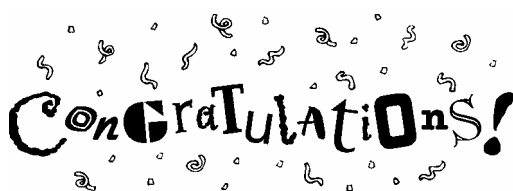
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				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

What is happening at Grace...



There are new sign up sheets in the parish hall for the hospitality hosts—both 8:00 and 10:00. Please sign up so we can enjoy some treats with fellowship.

Also, with the new year comes signing up for ushers/ flowers & candles, Altar Guild and LEM/Lectors. Please pray where you can help with these ministries. Call Lori at the office to find out more information.



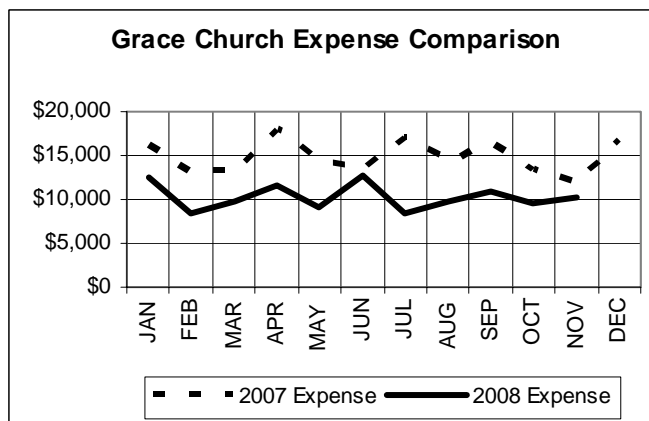
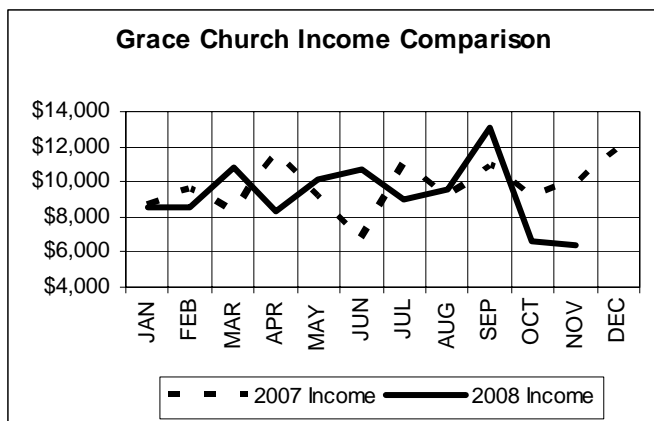
We would like to recognize Nicholas Bagadinski for his completion of the Boy Scouts of America award ~ God and Me.
What a great accomplishment!

Also – if you haven’t heard Grace Church shared two honorees for the new Lapeer Middle School. Doris Rolland and Ronald Warner were selected in appreciation of their dedicated community service. The Rolland – Warner Middle School is a true tribute to both individual’s commitment to education opportunities. And also a blessing to Grace Church!

NOVEMBER FINANCIALS



Pledge offerings:	\$ 6,311.66	
Total revenue:	\$ 6,409.32	
Total expenses:	\$ 10,172.04	
Income-Expense:	(\$ 3,762.72)	
Year to date deficit:	(\$ 10,909.36)	
Total transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:		\$5,000.00
Total assets:	\$223,338.56	



“What will we write on our clean slates?” by Garnet Haase

January marks the beginning of another new year filled with potential. At midnight on January 1st, 2009 will be a clean slate for each of us to write on for the next twelve months. We can outline plans and devise strategies for accomplishing our goals, both the new ones and the re-runs from previous years.

We can choose from the common perennials of losing weight, getting fit, quitting smoking, being punctual, completing those household projects, finishing that quilt we started twenty years ago, organizing the receipts so they're ready for tax preparation, taking a class, having more time for the family, keeping the house clean. The list goes on and on. We all have our favorites.

The problem with looking at our four page “total make-over” lists is that we can become depressed and down-hearted before we even begin. Our goals are often so far reaching and unbelievable that we give up on December 31st long before the clock strikes twelve.

“What’s the use? I’ll never be able to succeed. Why torment myself?” It’s easy to fall into that trap and make excuses for why we won’t try anything new. We’ve had years of experience with New Year’s resolutions that have lasted until 12:01a.m. January 1st. That doesn’t mean this year won’t be different though.

“Who says I can’t change my attitude and fortitude? If my motivation is strong enough, then I’ll see progress.” Ah, that’s the problem isn’t it? I don’t know about the rest of you but my motivation can be pretty wishy-washy at times. For example, one minute I’m determined to face the challenges of dieting and exercise. The next minute I’m grabbing for another Christmas cookie. Why?

Well for the most part, cookies taste good for the six seconds it takes to eat them. It’s easy to convince myself that one cookie can’t possibly be loaded with that many calories. But when was the last time I ate one cookie? Cookies are immediately gratifying. I don’t have to wait for the results. I pop the cookie into my mouth and instantly its essence tickles my tongue. I don’t get that kind of immediate payoff from dieting and exercise. Sure, I might see some encouraging results fairly soon but only after I’ve exerted my will and flexed my muscles.

What would drive me to do all that exerting and flexing? Well, God has a lot to do with my resolve. No, I can’t blame God for me being out of shape. Rather, he’s always ready to strengthen me when I call out to him and accept his help. Since God created me with free will, I must decide that I want to change the things in my life that are preventing me from sharing his love with others as fully as I might.

When I’m out of shape I don’t have the energy to care for anyone else. I also could be jeopardizing my own health and shortening my life. Seems like an awfully high price to pay for an extra helping of cheesy potatoes and another cookie or three.

It doesn’t matter what attitudes and actions we want or need to alter, our Lord is always offering us his guidance, strength and hope. We aren’t alone. Our Lord is with us encouraging us and picking us up when we stumble.

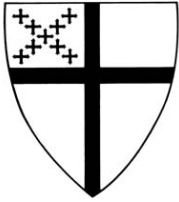
God wants the best for us. He wants us whole and at peace. That means God not only wants us physically fit, he also wants us mentally, emotionally and spiritually fit.

So while we’re filling up our clean slates with our goals and strategies let’s include time for additional prayer and Bible study. Maybe we fail to keep our resolutions because we don’t bother consulting God about what areas of our lives really need extra attention. He sees us inside and out and knows what we need much better than we do.

This year let’s invite our Lord into our planning and maybe just maybe we’ll have the courage and determination to face the challenges before us. Let’s ask God what he’d like us to write on 2009’s clean slate and give him the glory when we experience the positive results of our efforts.

Yours in Christ,
Garnet Haase

WHO AM I? Meet the Members of Grace answer:
Maria Bagadinski



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
735 WEST NEPESSING
LAPEER MICHIGAN 48446

Faithful people of Christ growing and serving through God's Grace

Change Service Requested



Grace Episcopal Church of Lapeer

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Web site: www.gracechurchlapeer.org

Office Hours: Monday – 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. William Boli, Priest-in-Residence

	Vestry	Phone	Liaison Areas
Judy Downey	Senior Warden	810-338-1161	Stewardship
Joyce Moore	Junior Warden	810-245-7608	Building & Grounds
Lauraine Ferris	Clerk of the Vestry	810-664-1063	Parish Life
Eldon Card	Vestry Member	810-245-6000	Administration
Lori Coulter	Vestry Member	810-653-0298	Altar, Worship
Jennie Spencer	Vestry Member	810-688-3174	Formation/Education
Doris Stevenson	Vestry Member	248-909-0121	Marketing/Advertising
LaVern Warner	Vestry Member	810-664-4005	Hospitality
Nancy Wells	Vestry Member	810-664-9793	Outreach
Robert Baird	Treasurer	810-664-8454	
	Staff		
Nick Ward	Organist		
Paul Allison	Sexton		
Lori Schmidt	Administrative Assistant		
Vicki McIntyre	Bookkeeper		