

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

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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 3

MARCH 2010

## Reflections from Rev. Sue

Dear Grace Community,  
Ahhh, we are in the midst of winter and Lent is upon us. During the season of winter we hunker down and stay cozied up inside. The plants and trees look as though nothing is happening but deep down in the darkness they are getting prepared for the next season of growth and fruit. The same is true for us during our liturgical season of winter, Lent.

We are given opportunities to get prepared for the next season of growth and fruit. Sometimes our Lenten practices involve sacrifice or a giving up of something we love. When our desire for this “something” occurs we are reminded of God’s abundant love for us and can choose to be grateful in the midst of our sacrifice.

Sometimes our Lenten practices involve a taking up of something – spending special time in prayer

or reading the Bible or attending more worship. It could be to attend the weekly Lenten series that meets at different churches in Lapeer on Wednesday evenings. Maybe it’s to clear the snow from a neighbor’s driveway or to serve each week at Food For Families.

A Lenten discipline could be a combination of sacrifice and taking on. One friend took the bus to work each Thursday during Lent. Another friend wanted to join in solidarity with those who hunger and so ate oatmeal for breakfast every day for the first week of Lent. Then on the second week he ate oatmeal for breakfast and lunch and on the third week and beyond he ate oatmeal for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The diocese has provided a wonderful Lenten Bible study for us. It was written by the Rev. Dr. Valerie (Val) Fargo, of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. who is now serving at Trinity

Bay City and teaching Holy Scripture in the Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry. It can be found online and downloaded at [www.eastmich.org](http://www.eastmich.org) or feel free to join us at our Wednesday, 12:15pm Holy Eucharist during which time we are using this study. Or if you are looking for something more in-depth there is an interactive conversation about the readings online at <http://easternmichigan.typepad.com/easternmichigan-bishop>.

As Rev. Val begins the concluding prayer at each session, we pray: Give us the courage, O God, to hear your word and to read our living into it. May it be so in through each of our Lenten practices.

In Christ’s love,  
Rev. Sue

## VESTRY Meeting Highlights from February 3



**Present:** Nancy Wells, Dick West, Lauraine Ferris, Doris Stevenson and Rev. Sue Rich

**Excused:** Clyde Pearsall & Eldon Card    **Guests:** Lori Schmidt

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

Approval made of January 6 & 10, 2010 minutes as written.

**Convocation Report** – Copy included in report and recorded as received and filed. Lori addressed that the Convocation would like to have a copy of each church's events scheduled for the year – Lori will ask Kerry, as representative to coordinate this.

### Old Business:

Priest Letters of Agreement – Discussion held regarding changes in the Letter of Agreement for Wardens and Vestry of both, Grace and St. John's, Dryden, motion to accept with changes, support. *Approved.* Motion to approve Letter of Agreement between Wardens and Vestry and Rev. Susan Rich with correction, supported. *Approved.* Topic of Library portraits was tabled to discuss plans/options.

**New Business:** Sr. Warden Nancy stressed the importance of open communication was again addressed – really need to work at this. Decision on who will be the opener for Sunday morning services – at this time Nancy Wells and Dick West will rotate months – to be sure someone is here with visiting Sacramentalists. Lori presented two applications for columbarium niches, voted on, *approved.* A Vestry retreat date has been scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup> from 9-4 at Light of Christ Church Farmhouse in Attica. Dryden Vestry will also attend. With the Lenten services held on Wednesday night – the next Vestry meeting will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup> following the service and brunch from Food for Families gang.

Lori indicated we have a parishioner that is willing to cover cost of painting front church door – Dick West will pursue what is needed to restore/paint it. Also, would like to get Rev. Sue's office painted – look to congregation to see if we have any volunteers that will do this. Discussion held regarding hosting Meet & Greet sessions for Rev. Sue – determined such a busy time and have events coming that the parish will have opportunity to become acquainted so at this time nothing is scheduled. Dick reported that have bats in Thrift Shop basement furnace room – he will take care of getting that eliminated. Rev. Sue reported on tour of Camp Lael – was very nice accommodations – would be great for summer parish picnic in July or August. The Vestry will make liaison assignments next month. Rev. Sue discussed open forum dates that will be held immediately following the church service prior to dismissal. This is an opportunity for congregation to share concerns/celebrations, hear the liaisons overview of ministries at Grace. The dates scheduled will be April 11, July 11, and October 24.

**Finance Report:** The budget still is not revised – Lori asked that we look for outside help with financials for the audit. The parochial report is due March 1<sup>st</sup>. Motion made to have Lori draft letter to LCB&T to change signatories and request quarterly statements on investments, support. *Approved.* The 2009 annual financial report will be included in the March newsletter.

**Priest Comments:** Feels all is going well – adjusting to rotation and learning curve for all. Trainings are coming up for parishioners working with children and vestry/staff. Lori will find out who has been trained for what and see who needs what. There is a conference Your Church & Your Community. Those interested need to let Lori know by March 5<sup>th</sup> for registration.

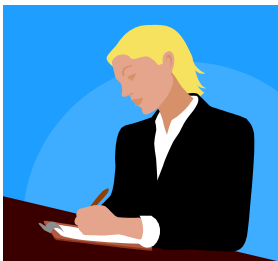
Closing prayer by Dick West—meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lori Schmidt*

Lori Schmidt, Administrative Assistant

## SENIOR WARDEN Report



Lent has arrived and we have begun the Ecumenical Lenten Dinner & Teaching Series. It would be wonderful if we could attend all the services, if not, I would encourage everyone to attend March 3 when Grace will be the host. It is a good time to show our gracious hospitality to our neighboring churches. I would also, encourage you to try to attend March 17 at Christ the King Lutheran when Rev. Sue will be doing the service.

The Silent Auction has concluded and again was a success. It was fun to see the excitement at the end when people were gathered around waiting to the last second to bid and win! Thank you to all that donated items and took advantage of the great bargains!

The second annual Family Fun Night was held February 27. Great food and several games were provided by the Parish Life Committee. It was a night of great fun and fellowship. I hear rumors there will be more to come. High five to Lauraine Ferris & her committee!

We are still looking for volunteers to help paint Rev. Sue's and possibly Lori's office. It has been several years and needs a facelift. We will provide the paint, but would like a commitment of your time and talent.

We are looking forward to possibly having the hand bell choir perform for our Easter Service. They provide such beautiful music for this special time of the year.

Nancy Wells, Sr. Warden

## JUNIOR WARDEN Report



We have experienced some plumbing problems in the way of a leak and two bad toilets. Our normal water usage is 3500 to 5000 gal a month. We got a heads up from the City as the meter read 59,000 gallons or around a \$400.00 to \$500.00 water bill for one month. We have contacted a plumber to correct the problems and have contacted the city so they can read the meter every other day.

Once again Joe Coon has done a good job with the snow removal.

I still haven't heard from anyone to help with lawn this summer.

Thanks.

Dick West, Jr. Warden

## A Bit about me...

(A brief bio on our Sacramentalists)

### The Rev. Nancy Steele



Member – St. Paul’s Episcopal, Corunna

Born the oldest of four children in Flint, Michigan in 1947. Lived most of my life in Chesaning, Michigan.

Attended Michigan State University, graduating with a BS in Home Economics Education in 1969. Taught for a year in Mayville, Michigan, a year in Fort Worth, Texas and many years in Chesaning, Michigan.

Married my best friend, Jon, in St. John’s Episcopal Church, Chesaning (now closed) in 1969...the best move I ever made for many reasons.

Have been blessed with two daughters, two sons-in-laws and (almost) eight grandchildren. Half are in Michigan and the other half live Minnesota.

Have held every position within the local church except Jr. Warden...no church would want me messing up the building (or telling others how to mess it up...I know where my strengths do not lie.) I have also served at the convocation and diocesan levels.

Favorite hobbies include sewing (since I was 10) and quilting for the past nearly 40 years. I am not much of an outdoor person...too many fun things to keep me occupied inside.

Ordained priest Feb. 23, 2008. Love this ministry, meeting and working with new people and learning new things.

I am very blessed to have the new opportunity to expand my role as priest by serving the congregations of St. John’s, Dryden and Grace, Lapeer in addition to my own parishioners. I look forward to the future for whatever opportunities avail themselves – and wherever God sends me.

	<b>The Third Sunday in Lent March 7 HOLY EUCHARIST</b>	<b>The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 14 HOLY EUCHARIST</b>	<b>The Fifth Sunday in Lent March 21 HOLY EUCHARIST</b>	<b>Palm Sunday March 28 HOLY EUCHARIST</b>
Clergy Serving	The Rev. Nancy Steele	The Rev. Sue Rich	The Rev. Ann Norton	The Rev. Sue Rich
Altar Guild	Jennie Spencer & LeeAnna, Jessica & Miranda Snipes			
Altar Flowers	<b>LENT</b>	<b>LENT</b>	<b>LENT</b>	<b>LENT</b>
Sanctuary Candle	Bill & Lori Schmidt	Dick & Darlene West	Wilda Hopkins	Joyce Moore
Vestry Lockup	Lauraine Ferris			
<b>9:00 SERVICE</b>				
Ushers/Greeters	Della Hammond & Barb Scharping			
LEM	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells	Jennie Spencer	Kerry Spencer
Lector 1*	Judy Downey	Robert Thomas	Wilda Hopkins	Kerry Spencer
Lector 2**	Jean Coon	Nancy Wells	Mary Kay Mason	Jennie Spencer
Acolytes	Jessica Snipes	Jennie Spencer	Josh Spencer	Nicky Bagadinski
	Devin House		Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski
	Hayden House			Jennie Spencer
Hospitality Hosts		Food for Families Brunch	Barb Scharping	

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Vicki McIntyre
- 6 Adrianna Phouvone
- 13 Fr. William Boli
- 15 Aidan Marino
- 17 Twila Mercer
- 18 Doris Rolland
- 23 Albert Walz
- 31 Kaye Kneeshaw



**Birthdays  
& Anniversaries**

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

- 5 Ed & Sue Evans
- 19 Mike & LeeAnna Snipes
- 24 Harold & Pat Schneider

**TRANSFERS IN**

**FUNERAL/MEMORIAL**

**BAPTISMS**

**WEDDINGS**



**DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME BEGINS**

March 14,  
2010

# MARCH 2010

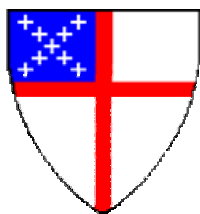
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# Food for Families Report— Dutch & Janie Klotzner

The **Food for Families** team invites you to join us for a **Country Brunch** Sunday, March 14 following the morning service. We have a great menu planned and it's your opportunity to come and partake of some truly yummy vittles and spend time with your church family.

Our menu is posted in the Parish Hall and we invite you to **please** sign up, by March 7th, so we know better how many to prepare this fine meal for. Donations will be accepted to defray the expense of the food and any monies over the amount needed will be donated to the church.

For additional information or questions please call (810) 793-5767.

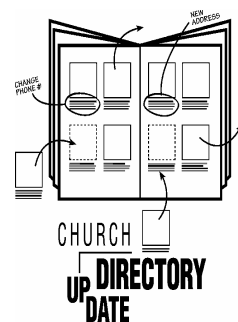


Grace Episcopal Church of Lapeer  
Due to the Ecumenical Lenten Dinner &  
Teaching Series  
the **March** regularly scheduled  
Vestry meeting  
will be held **Sunday, March 14th at 10:30 a.m.**

Guests are always welcome!

## *Parish Pictorial Directory Update*

It has gone to print! We now have all the Sacramentalists and portraits that we could get—Should have final copies by the end of March—Thanks for your patience!



## **Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall Scrapbooking Daze**

**April 23-24, 2010**

**Limited Space ~ can get reservation forms from  
Lori , Pat Schneider or Della Hammond**



# ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

February is almost over and though so far the weather has been pretty good. I'm sure we are all ready for Spring. ECW, as always, are discussing ways to improve our bank balance and several ideas were discussed at the February meeting. The silent auction is now over, hope you got the treasure you bid on, thank you to all who donated and bid. March meeting is on the 14th after the Food for Families Country Brunch, see you then.

Barb Scharping  
ECW President

A copy of the 2010 ECW budget is included for you to see what ECW money is used for. But as with all budgets, this is a working tool to help us plan for the year. It is important that all the profits from the projects and events are received as planned to meet the distribution goals.

**Deadline is March 26th!**



**Easter Lilies**

**FOR SALE**  
\$10 PER POTTED PLANT  
DELIVERY HOLY  
WEEK

**ORDER FORMS IN ARE  
IN BULLETINS OR CALL  
THE OFFICE**

E. C. W.		PROPOSED BUDGET - - - 2010
<b>INCOME</b>		
Thrift Shop Sales		\$ 7,500.00
Egg Roll Sales (Net)		5,000.00
Holiday Bazaar (Net)		2,200.00
Style Show (Net)		500.00
Silent Auction		300.00
Miscellaneous		600.00
Check book balance		<u>4,000.00</u>
<b>Total Anticipated Income</b>		<b>\$ 20,100.00</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
<b>Responsibilities (52.25%)</b>		
Thrift Shop Utilities		\$ 9,000.00
Funeral Luncheons		500.00
Housekeeping		.00
Kitchen Supplies		400.00
Sales Tax		<u>600.00</u>
<b>Total Responsibilities</b>		<b>\$ 10,500.00</b>
<b>Caring for Grace (36.5%)</b>		
Pledge to Grace Church		\$ 6,000.00
Youth Camp Scholarships		500.00
Youth Programs		.00
Library		.00
Christmas Gifts/Staff		350.00
Church Directory/Advertising		<u>500.00</u>
<b>Total Caring for Grace</b>		<b>\$ 7,350.00</b>
<b>Caring for Others (9%)</b>		
Love, Inc.		\$ 200.00
Episcopal Relief & Development		200.00
Food Closet		250.00
Camp Chickagami		200.00
American Cancer Society (Lapeer)		.00
Goodfellows		250.00
Brighter Days		250.00
Holiday Depot		150.00
Refuge for Homeless		150.00
Miscellaneous Organizations		<u>150.00</u>
<b>Total Caring for Others</b>		<b>\$ 1,800.00</b>
<b>Discretionary Funda (2.25%)</b>		
		\$ 450.00
<b>Total Discretionary Funds</b>		<b>\$ 450.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>\$ 20,100.00</b>

Budget Adopted January 24, 2010  
Subject to revision July, 2010  
(Contingent on income to date)

The following report was not available at the 2010 Annual meeting report since the date was moved earlier in the month. It was nice to learn our investments had an increase in value compared to last year's loss.

### Grace Episcopal Church of Lapeer Investment Activity for 2009

**Investments at Lapeer County Bank & Trust**

Balance January 1, 2009	\$134,982.19
Total increase due to dividends and capital gains	<u>\$ 18,920.62</u>
Total	\$153,902.81
Disbursements	
Lapeer County Bank Fees	\$ 1,236.68
Grace Episcopal Church of Lapeer	<u>\$20,000.00</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 21,236.68</u>
Market Value of Trust Account December 31, 2009	<b><u>\$132,666.13</u></b>

**Townsend Fund**

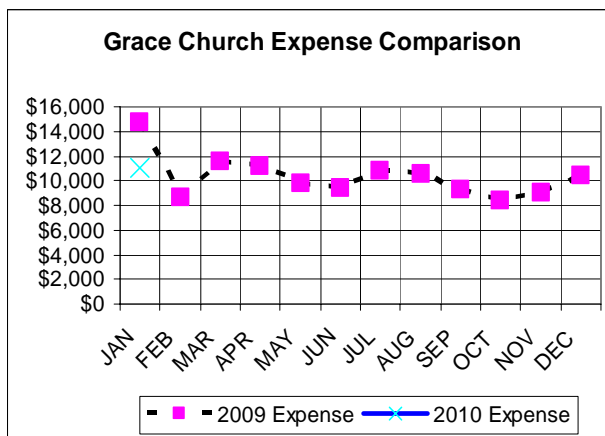
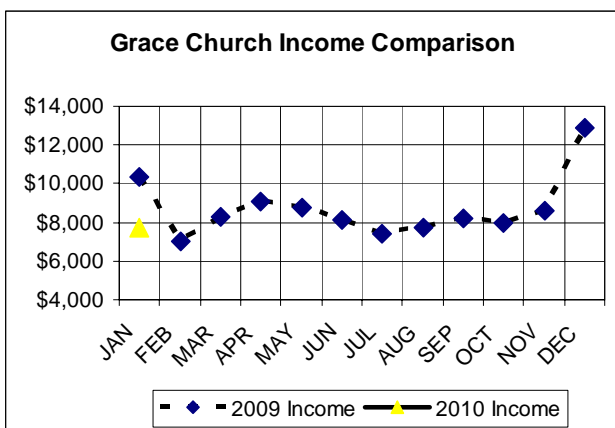
Balance January 1, 2009	\$132,545.85
Balance as of December 31, 2009	<b><u>\$170,138.92</u></b>
Gain due to investment market	\$ 37,593.07

This gift was given to Grace Episcopal Church by Mr. & Mrs. Roy Townsend with the stipulations that we only use the income.



### JANUARY FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings:	\$ 5,389.00
Total revenue:	\$ 7,748.81
Total expenses:	\$ 11,061.33
Income-Expense:	(\$ 3,312.52)
Year to date deficit:	(\$ 3,312.52)
Total transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:	\$0.00
Total assets:	<b>\$ 166,668.98</b>



## “Sacrifices” by Garnet Haase

For the last week and a half, I’ve been watching portions of the Winter Olympics and one thing stands out for me. Those sports are dangerous! Even curling can be painful if you drop one of those ... what ... forty-five pound stones on your foot. Athletes hurl themselves down the sides of ice- and snow-covered mountains; twist and turn through gates; fly off the end of ski jumps, float hundreds of feet through the air and try to land upright on more snow and ice.

Speaking of ice, skaters go zooming around the slippery rink, leaping into the air, spinning, skating backwards. The women in the pairs competition get thrown through the air while doing their spins and must often land backwards on a blade about an eighth of an inch wide. Let there be no mistake, when a 100 pound woman’s body hits a hard, cold, unforgiving surface at a high rate of speed it hurts. Damage is done to that skater.

Winter Olympic competitors are not cartoon characters who after having an anvil dropped on them can go on as if nothing happened — though some try. They have bones that break and brains that slam against the inside of their skulls when their heads bounce off the mountainside or the ice rink or the luge track. Some even lose their lives.

I’m willing to bet that none of us reading this article are likely to even dream of being Winter Olympians. Not only do we not want the contusions and the surgeries to repair our shattered bones and our torn knee ligaments, we refuse to devote hour after grueling hour to practice, week after stressful week putting the rest of our life on hold, year after year of sacrifice and expense for a chance to compete in the Olympics.

No, we’d much rather sit in our La-Z-Boys and gripe about the athletes who don’t meet our expectations in some way. In 2006 I watched snowboarder Lindsey Jacobellis fight to win a gold medal in the snowboard cross event only to give it away at the very end because she was caught up in the excitement of the moment and wanted to share it with the crowd by putting a little extra flair into her second to the last jump.

She lost her balance, fell on her landing and slid for a number of feet — then she got back up, finished the race and won a silver medal. She was racing with three other women down a narrow twisting course and over jumps. This was no walk in the park. One of the snowboarders went through the protective fence and somehow managed to climb her way back onto the course and ended up winning the bronze medal. The fourth racer was carried off the course on a stretcher and taken to the hospital. How much attention was paid to her? Next to none.

No, instead, we focused on how Lindsey had let us down by not winning the gold medal. How dare she after risking life and limb and devoting years of her life to preparation, not give us the gold medal *we* deserved? How thoughtless of her. In an interview she stated, “I was just having fun with the sport. I got caught up in the moment, and stopped paying attention.” She confessed to losing her focus for a moment ... for a moment. Doesn’t that tell us something?

Up there on the mountains, on the skating rinks, on the luge course the athletes must stay focused every moment or it could cost them not only a gold medal but their lives. Lindsey was going over a jump at a high rate of speed and flying through the air. Even if she had hit the ground solidly on her snowboard, instead of on the edge, how much strain would that have put on her knees and hips and back?

Did we care that she slammed the hard snow-covered ground with her back or head? No, all that mattered was that Lindsey didn’t win us the gold medal. She was supposed to *redeem* herself in these Olympics but she fell during a semi-final race and didn’t qualify for the final. But why was redemption even necessary? She had already devoted another four years of her life to training for that day. She was fighting hard to win, to move forward, to win a gold medal, not only for herself but for all the people who thought she let them down four years ago.

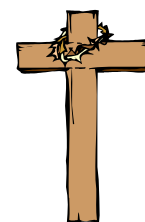
Those of us chained to our couches by our lack of drive, our fear of taking any sort of risk, our willingness to settle for the safe life, our refusal to devote ourselves to anything enough to excel at it might be a big part of why athletes keep pushing the envelope. Not only are they being more daring to satisfy their need for an adrenalin rush, they’re giving us our excitement fix.

Do we appreciate the sacrifices our “heroes” make for us? Do we appreciate the sacrifice Jesus made for us? During Lent let’s ponder these things. Let’s think about how we let others do the work and stick their necks out for our sake. Do we criticize them while sitting safely in the comfort of our easy chairs? Maybe we need a change of heart. And isn’t that what the Olympics are really about — having heart?

Yours in Christ,  
Garnet Haase

# “Faces of the Cross”

Ecumenical Lenten Dinner & Teaching Series



March 3	Grace Episcopal 735 W. Nepessing St.	Caiaphas, the High Priest Pastor Nik Schillack
March 10	First Presbyterian 433 N. Calhoun	Mary, the Mother of Jesus Deacon Colleen Dewey
March 17	Christ the King Lutheran 1175 S. Lapeer Rd.	The Centurion Rev. Sue Rich
March 24	St. Matthew's 1009 N. Saginaw St.	The Penitent Thief Pastor Todd Smith

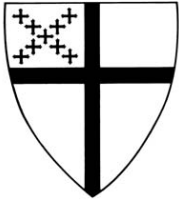
6:00pm Soup & Bread Supper  
7:00pm Worship & Teaching  
8:00pm Closing



Once again this Lent, on Wednesday evenings, we will experience the Lenten journey to the cross with other congregations in the Lapeer area. For each service, we will gather at the host congregation for soup and bread, then worship. The host congregation will prepare the meal, a guest pastor will preach, and the worship time will end around 8:00 p.m. Feel free to invite family and friends to join with us in this Lenten experience.



Beginning April 1, when a name has been on the Prayer List for thirty days it will be removed. Many times we forget to remove our friends or loved ones when they recover. Please call the office and let Lori know if you would like to have someone remain on the list.



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**

	<b>Vestry</b>		<b>Phone</b>	<b>Liaison Areas</b>
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
Eldon Card	Vestry Member		810-245-6000	Administration
Clyde Pearsall	Vestry Member		810-653-8006	Formation/Education
Doris Stevenson	Vestry Member		248-909-0121	Marketing/Advertising
David Coon		Treasurer	810-797-4712	
	<b>Staff</b>			<b>Sacramentalists</b>
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	Owosso