

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 3

MARCH 2011

Reflections from Rev. Sue

Dear Grace Community,

Once again I find myself thinking about “grace” for which we are named. The aspect of grace to which I am being drawn is its gentleness. When I think of gentleness I think of the Holy Spirit who is the one who gifts us with gentleness and love.

In the second half of Galatians chapter 5 Paul writes to the faith community in Galatia about the works of the flesh and the works of the Spirit. He challenges them to live by the Spirit as he lists the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. These two contrasting lists couldn’t be more different.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (verse 22). We will soon be entering into the liturgical season of Lent which is a time of penitence and self-reflection. In years past the Lenten practice focus was on giving something up for which you love so that every time you desire it you would turn to God instead of that thing and express gratitude for all God has given. We still do that today while we focus more on taking

something on that makes us more aware of those for whom God loves.

This Lent I encourage you to be intentional about your Lenten practice(s), whatever it (they) may be. Maybe take the bus to work one day a week or walk to the store instead of drive. Maybe you desire to live in solidarity with those who are hungry and eat oatmeal for breakfast every day for a week and then eat oatmeal for breakfast and lunch the second week and then eat oatmeal for breakfast, lunch and dinner for the rest of Lent.

Maybe focus on one of the fruits of the Spirit during Lent. By focusing on God’s Spirit one could better live into that particular gift. Or spend a specified time each day sitting in the presence of God’s love and then pay attention throughout the day to see where the fruit of the Spirit was most evident—one could even keep a journal of these awarenesses.

Are you at a time and place in your life where you would like to be a part of a study group that focuses on the baptismal covenant and all that that entails? I will be leading a six-session class for those preparing for confirmation, renewal

of baptismal vows and reception into the Episcopal Church. This will occur when Bishop Todd Ousley visits us on April 10th. Participating in this could be a good Lenten practice.

There’s also a bible study on the Lenten Sunday readings of Matthew’s gospel available. It is downloadable from the diocesan website (www.eastmich.org) for personal use or you may join the Wednesday 12:15pm group for Holy Eucharist, this bible study followed by a brown bag lunch.

Each of these options, and any others you can think of, can be lived out of the place of grace. It is through the Holy Spirit that we experience God’s love which is gentle and kind and full of grace. And it is this Spirit through which we are able to do all things in Christ.

In Christ’s love,

Rev. Sue

VESTRY Update...



There was no vestry meeting held in January due to the Annual meeting, which was held on January 30th. The vestry did meet for a mutual ministry review on the 15th of January. Details of that meeting was discussed at the annual meeting and minutes are included in the annual meeting report. The February and March meeting will be combined on March 2nd—due to Ash Wednesday services on March 9th.



Thank you, our Grace Church family,

Your prayers, cards and calls meant a lot to Bob and our family. Your support over the last year was appreciated every day.

We thank all who helped with the luncheon. It was well done and the compliments flowed from family & friends.

Again, thank you Rev. Sue, Grace Church family and friends for your support and encouragement during a difficult time.

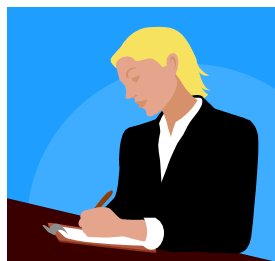
The Coulter family,
Lynne, Lori, Melissa and John

(Editor note: this should have been in last month's issue—sorry for the oversight)



Rev. Sue will be conducting two services on March 9, 2011 for Ash Wednesday. She will be at Grace Church, Lapeer at 12:15 p.m. and at St. John's, Dryden at 7:00 p.m.

SENIOR WARDEN Report



The Lenten Season is fast approaching, beginning with our Ash Wednesday Service on March 9th. Again, this year we will be participating in the Ecumenical Lenten Dinner and Teaching Series. I would encourage everyone to attend as many as possible. Grace will be hosting the first of the series on March 16, and hopefully many of us will be available to extend our "GRACEFUL" hospitality to our neighboring churches.

We did not have a Vestry meeting in February, however, the next meeting will be held March 2. As always Vestry meetings are open to anyone that would like to attend.

Lauraine Ferris has set up one of the bulletin boards in the Parish Hall with different ways we can help defray the monthly expenses here at Grace. Feel free to take a look to see if there is something you may be able to help with. Great idea, thank you Lauraine!

Nancy Wells, Sr. Warden



July 14-17 & August 3-6, 2011

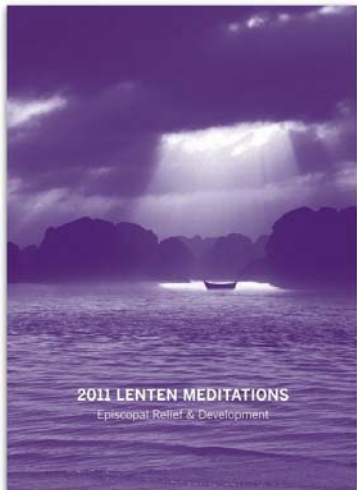
Mark your calendar for these dates to help at

Palace Poker to benefit

Grace Episcopal Church ECW

Please plan to work at least one shift each time, if not two. Thank-you!





Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday March 13, 2011

The Episcopal Church's ongoing commitment to fight poverty and disease around the world is lived out in a variety of ways. Advocacy with our government for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is one vital way. Another is through the ministry of Episcopal Relief & Development, which, as the relief and development arm of The Episcopal Church, works globally to alleviate hunger, fight disease and strengthen communities.

In 2008, the Presiding Bishop designated the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday and as an annual celebration of Episcopal Relief & Development's role in our collective mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

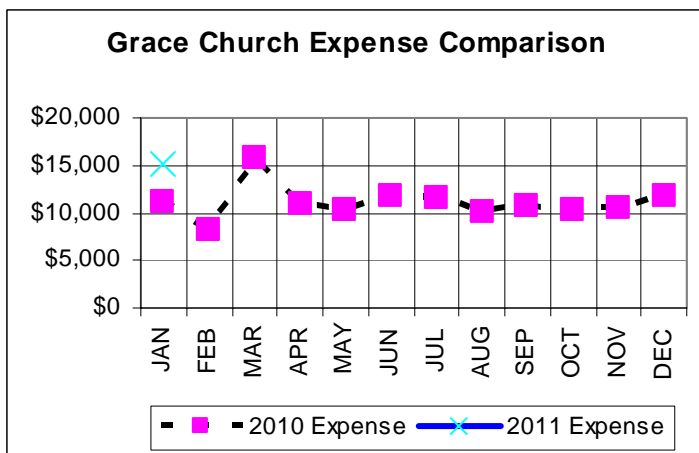
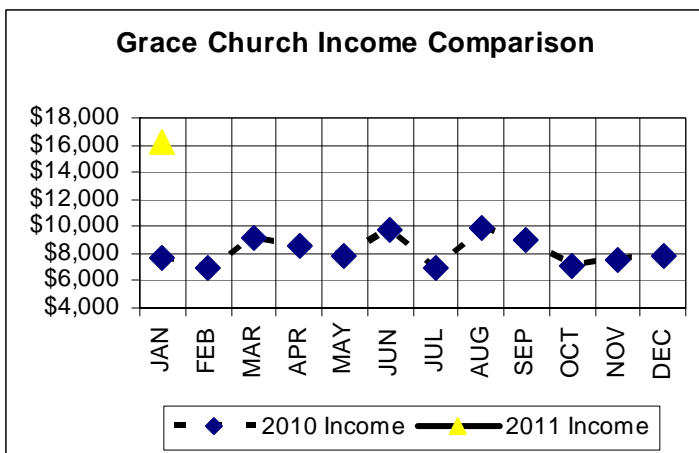
The Board of Episcopal Relief & Development believes that a Resolution of General Convention designating the first Sunday of Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday would focus the church's attention on the important work of healing a hurting world.

Books will be available on back pew – Be sure to take yours for this Lenten season.



JANUARY FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings:	\$ 5,182.00
Transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:	\$ 8,000.00
Total revenue:	\$ 16,185.72
Total expenses:	<u>\$ 15,136.77</u>
Income-Expense:	\$ 1,048.95
Year to date deficit:	
Total assets:	\$ 139,687.46



	The Last Sunday After the Epiphany March 6 HOLY EUCHARIST	The First Sunday in Lent March 13 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Second Sunday in Lent March 20 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Third Sunday in Lent March 27 HOLY EUCHARIST
Clergy Serving	The Rev. Ann Norton	The Rev. Sue Rich	The Rev. Nancy Steele	The Rev. Sue Rich
Altar Guild	Jennie Spencer & LeeAnna, Jessica & Miranda Snipes			
Altar Flowers	NEEDED	LENT	LENT	LENT
Sanctuary Candle	Dick & Darlene West	Bill & Lori Schmidt	Wilda Hopkins	Charlie Coutcher
Vestry Lockup	Harold Schneider			
9:00 SERVICE				
Ushers/Greeters	Bill & Lori Schmidt			
LEM	Kerry Spencer	Nancy Wells	Jennie Spencer	Nancy Wells
Lector 1*	Barb Scharping	Robert Thomas	Wilda Hopkins	Kerry Spencer
Lector 2**	Jean Coon	Nancy Wells	Mary Kay Mason	Jennie Spencer
Acolytes	Jessica Snipes	Devin House	Josh Spencer	Nicky Bagadinski
	Jennie Spencer	Hayden House	Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski
				Jennie Spencer
Hospitality Hosts	NEEDED	Pat Schneider	Jack & Marge Hutton	NEEDED

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Vicki McIntyre
- 17 Twila Mercer
- 18 Doris Rolland
- 23 Albert Walz
- 31 Kaye Kneeshaw

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

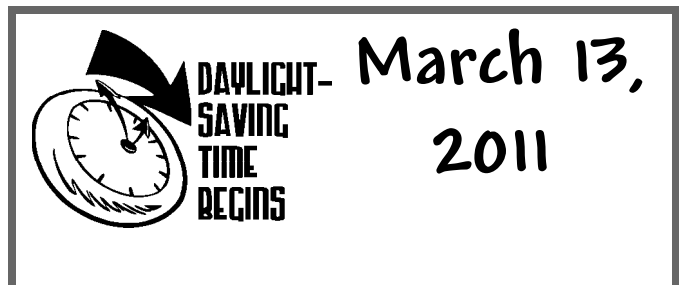
- 19 Mike & LeeAnna Snipes
- 24 Harold & Pat Schneider

TRANSFERS IN

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL

BAPTISMS

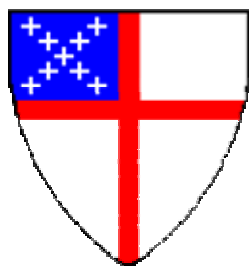
WEDDINGS



Food for Families Report—

This month we don't have anything much to report as things are running along quite smoothly. That's because of the great volunteers we have, all pitching in and getting the job done in an orderly and timely fashion. It seems that if we are short handed one week we have cross-trained so that the work is done by another helper. For these fine folks we are eternally grateful. And a very big '**THANK YOU**' to those who have very generously provided us with extra donations of food and/or monies.

Respectfully,
Janie and Dutch Klotzner



Grace Episcopal Church of Lapeer
Due to the Ecumenical Lenten Dinner &
Teaching Series
the **March** regularly scheduled
Vestry meeting
will be held **Wednesday, March 2nd at 6:30 p.m.**

Guests are always welcome!

Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall

Scrapbooking Daze

April 29-30, 2011

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



ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

We had good attendance at the February meeting, we made decisions as to the dates for this years fund raisers. These meetings are usually conducted in a very relaxed manner with lots of laughs but we do get some serious things accomplished. The first event will be Scrapbooking Friday evening April 29 and all day Saturday April 30, Della or Pat have all the details. Next event is the Luau and Fashion Show on May 16, so dust of your grass skirt and practice the hula, we are hoping this will be a lot of fun. June 16 is the date set for the Yard Sale. Mark your calendar as we need everyone to participate to make them a success. We meet again March 13 after coffee.

Barb Scharping, ECW President

Flint River Valley Convocation Meeting Saturday, February 12, 2011

Meeting was held at St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc.

Dennis Pickard, Trinity, Flushing was elected vice president for two years.

Christian Service Award is being given to Mr. Bretsky at St. Jude's, Fenton on Sunday, February 13, 2011.

Eucharistic Minister & Visitor Training on March 11th & 12th at Grace Episcopal Church in Lapeer.

Christian Formation Gathering, *Sowing Seeds, Cultivating Interest*, at St. Bartholomew's in Mio on April 9th, \$10 Registration Fee.

HAPPENING #8 for youth in Grades 9-12 at St. Michael's Episcopal Church On April 29-May 1st in Grosse Pointe Woods, Cost: \$45. Scholarship assistance is available.

Consecration of Marty Fields as Bishop In Kansas City, MO on March 5th.

\$1000 donation made to Mary Cameron from St. John's, Dryden. She had a home fire and lost everything.

St. Mark's in Bridgeport is closing and having their last service on March 6th.

Book study of The Great Emergence is being conducted at the convocation meetings starting in March.

Next convocation meeting will be held on March 12th at St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc. St. Dunstan's, Davison will provide Bible Study and Refreshments.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki McIntyre

“Quicksand Days” by Garnet Haase

All of us encounter quicksand days occasionally. Those are the ones when the more we have to do, the less we get done, the faster we move the slower the process. Those are the days when things seem to fly out of our hands and when we bend over to pick up what we've dropped, everything else we're carrying falls on the floor.

It's when our wet dog jumps on the furniture and runs through the house with us screaming in its wake. Our neighbor's cat leaves dead birds in our yard for us to bury. The snow melts leaving our lawn a mud hole, or if it hits in the summer, a freak thunder storm catches us at work with the windows open at home.

Quicksand days are the ones when we're already running late for an appointment and get stuck on the freeway due to unexpected road work. And when we try to make up the lost time it's us, not the driver of the red van we couldn't keep up with, who gets to meet the nice officer.

They're the days when our cat coughs up a fur ball and we step in it with our bare feet. Our kids have practices, rehearsals and lessons to attend at the same time and we're the only driver available. Our hair won't cooperate. We sit in something that stains our favorite slacks. Our elderly parents call to tell us they have doctors' appointments at 2:00 and 4:30 and want us to take them, if it isn't inconvenient.

Dinner burns and when we go out to grab something else, our fries are cold and our burger is overcooked, until it squirts from the bun and lands on the floor where it's transformed into garbage. On quicksand days, our frustration level rises at the same rate our patience level drops. Wasn't that one of Newton's laws of physics?

Quicksand days catch us off guard. Sure, we may live in a jungle, but we aren't expecting slurping sands lurking around every twist of the trail. We trudge along hoping to make it through each day unscathed. We try to remain alert, but once in awhile our focus shifts from the path and we veer into the quicksand.

Our first reaction is denial. We couldn't possibly be in quicksand, so we fight to extricate ourselves from the slop. Unfortunately, our efforts are in vain and our denial is replaced by fear and flailing, but the more we thrash about the faster we sink. We scream for help, but no one seems to hear. We think the situation couldn't get any worse, then we look up and see a boa constrictor coiled around the tree limb just out of our reach.

At this point a lot of people give up and allow themselves to sink into despair. They lose hope. Apparently, they haven't seen the old Tarzan movies where he always arrives just in time to pull the slimy victim to safety. In real life, we've got someone even better than Tarzan to save us though, our Lord, Jesus the Christ. He's always with us. He doesn't want us dragged down. Instead, he wants us to call upon him and trust in him. God wants us to remain calm as we await his rescue that will come at just the right moment.

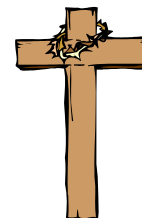
If we try to fight our way out of the quicksand, we'll sink. If we trust in Jesus and build our hope on him, we'll find ourselves on solid rock. I'm reminded of the words to one of my favorite hymns. "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. No merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand."

Let's trust in Jesus and follow his lead. He'll keep us safe and on solid ground ... boa constrictors and all.

Yours In Christ,
Garnet Haase

“Journey to the Cross”

Ecumenical Lenten Dinner & Teaching Series



Ash Wednesday— 12:15 p.m. Grace, Lapeer
7:00 p.m. St. John’s, Dryden

March 16	Grace Episcopal 735 W. Nepessing St.	The Birth of the Christ Pastor Todd Smith
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March 23	St. Matthew’s 1009 N. Saginaw St.	The Baptism of Jesus Pastor Nik Schillack
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March 30	First Presbyterian 433 N. Calhoun	The Wedding at Cana Rev. Sue Rich
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April 6	Immaculate Conception 814 W. Nepessing St.	The Transfiguration Father Doug Terrien
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April 13	Christ the King Lutheran 1175 S. Lapeer Rd.	The Last Supper Father David Hudspeth
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5:30pm Soup & Bread Supper
6:30pm Worship & Teaching



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. Feel free to invite family and friends to join with us in this Lenten experience. As you can see, Grace is the first to host the series, so please watch for sign-up sheets to prepare food, serve, or clean-up after the meal.

Welcome Church Family!!!!

Come join us for the “Blessing of the Trees”

At

Arnold’s SugarBush & Farm LLC
2736 Slattery Rd
Lum, MI 48412
810-338-5960

(8 miles East of Lapeer on M-21, 4 Miles N on Lake Pleasant, 2 Miles
E on Lum Rd, to N Slattery Rd 1 mile on the right)



March 27, 2011

12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Lunch at 12:00 p.m.

(Maple Dogs and maple beans provided)

Blessing of the Trees is at 2:00 p.m.

Maple Demonstration to follow on: Trees, Tapping, Gathering, and Boiling.

Spring is almost here unfortunately so is the mud!!
Bring your boots, lawn chair, and dress accordingly.

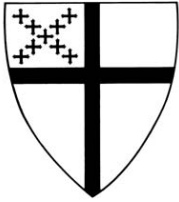
See you there!!!

Your Friends
Craig and Sandy Arnold

Opportunities to enhance your ministry and commitment...

✝ Confirmation classes are starting as soon as possible, to cover the renewal of baptismal vows and being received into the Episcopal Church. Bishop Ousley will be coming on April 10th to Grace to preside over the service. So if interested, please see Rev. Sue or Lori immediately to get more details. The meeting time/date will be determined with the group.

✝ Also—Grace will be hosting a Diocese training for Eucharistic Visitors and Eucharistic Ministers (Chalice bearers) on March 11th from 6:30-8:30pm and March 12th from 9-3. Please let Lori know if you are interested in being licensed so she can get you registered at



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
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			