

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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EM: [gracechurchlapeer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gracechurchlapeer@sbcglobal.net)

STAFF

Lori Schmidt, Admin. Assistant

Kathy Lynch, Custodian

Vicki McIntyre, Bookkeeper

Nick Ward, Music Director

OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Wednesday— 9:00a-4:00p

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

Friday—Closed

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vestry Highlights 2

Sr. Warden Report 3

Help Wanted

Food For Families 4

Flint River Valley  
Convocation Report

Service Schedule  
Calendar 5-6

ECW News 7

Finance Report

“Change” by Garnet  
Haase 8

FREE End of Life Planning  
Series Schedule 9

# GRACEFUL TIDINGS

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 5

MAY 2011

## Reflections from Rev. Sue

Dear Grace Community,

Happy Easter! The Lord is risen! Alleluia!!

We are so fortunate to worship the One who makes the impossible possible. Throughout Lent we've been reflecting on our own lives and on the end of the life of Jesus.

Those who followed him were so hopeful for a future and when Jesus died all hope was lost. Their emptiness must have been excruciatingly painful and the fear for their own lives was surely dark.

And then... Mary Magdalene and the other Mary did an everyday, natural thing – they went to the tomb of their loved one, just to see it and be there. But to their astonishment they heard and felt an earthquake caused by an angel descending from heaven. This angel was full of brilliant white and was like lightening and he rolled the stone away from the tomb.

The angel knows who they are and why they are there and tells them not to be afraid, that the one they seek has been raised from the dead (as Jesus said) and to go tell the disciples Jesus

will meet them in Galilee. So Mary and Mary, full of fear and wonder, take a look inside the empty tomb, go running to tell “the boys”, and head to Galilee.

Then, just as suddenly as the angel appeared, Jesus stands before them and says, “Hello!” They are all so happy to be together and the Marys grab onto his feet and worship him. The impossible has been made possible by Jesus. He really IS the one who will save them and all people. He, like the angel, tells the Marys to tell “the boys” and he'll meet them all in Galilee.

Now hope and joy replace hopelessness and emptiness. Now the impossible has become possible. Have you ever been afraid? Of course, you have. As a child, the warmth and safety of a trusted adult would bring you comfort and safety. All things seem to be made better by their presence and assurance. As an adult, it is harder for us to have our fears relieved and to trust that all is well and that all will be well.

The Good News is that:

Jesus has the power and authority to calm our fears.

Whatever may happen to us, whatever a day may hold, God has the power to strengthen us and uphold us.

Whatever we must face, we don't face it alone.

Nothing we encounter is stronger than God's love.

Ultimately God gets the last word.

In the end—and sometimes before the end—God's love is triumphant.

When the message of “don't be afraid” is completely taken in to the depth of one's soul—like Mary Magdalene and the other Mary—one ends up singing praises and offering blessings!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Rev. Sue

## VESTRY Meeting Highlights from April 13



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

Opening prayer was led by Lauraine Ferris and meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Approval made of March 2 meeting minutes as presented.

**Old Business:** Townsend Fund Committee update – a meeting for the committee has been scheduled for May. Congregation survey review – was directed to go to worship committee plans for visitors – put on agenda for June. Bishop visit went well – good sermon and meeting that followed – brought up things to think about – outside box. Grant application – Lori has given application process to five individuals that expressed interest in assisting – Red door paint needs to be redone – Lori contacted company will take care of it when warm weather arrives.

**New Business:** Brian's Restaurant ad is up for renewal – discussion held – will not be renewed at this time. Utilize different advertising media – such as Good News Newsletter. Dick stated that he will be working in nursery to install a place for choir robes to be hung so more available space is in entry way for visitors. Lauraine had developed a schedule for lay visitors and Eucharistic ministers to begin in May for visiting/contacting our home parishioners. There will be an organizational meeting scheduled to explain process and provide accountability. Lauraine also reported on a class she attended on cooking for crowds – to help with Food for Families program. Nancy received a letter of resignation from Judy as ECW Thrift Shop Manager, with regrets will contact Barb Scharping, ECW President for her to address at their next meeting. Discussion on building usage – Lori will contact surrounding churches to update fee schedule – will discuss in May.

**Finance Report:** Lori reported on February and March financial reports. At the forum, we need to have finance position available – like a visual aid that will show money in/money out and pledge status. Lori will work on that with Finance Committee. Motion to approve finance reports as presented, voted on. *Passed.*

**Priest Comments:** Rev. Sue reported her goal is to visit our home parishioners during Holy Week. The free End of Life Planning Series is in place – need to get word out to community. Rev. Sue is attending the Diocese Mission trip to South Dakota in June. She will be taking her vacation in July.

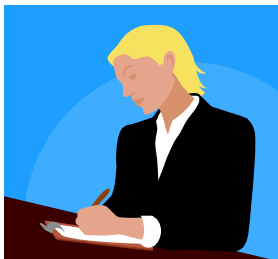
Closing prayer was led by Dick West – meeting adjourned 9:20 p.m.

Next Vestry meeting will be on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 – since the End of Life planning series is on Wednesday.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lori Schmidt*

Administrative Assistant



# SENIOR WARDEN Report

Happy May! We still have time for Spring, I just hope it is sooner than later.

Sunday, May 1st the Pastoral Team will meet to discuss the role we will have in visiting our sick and/or Home Parishioners. Thank you Lauraine Ferris and Rev. Sue for organizing the Team.

Previously, we did a survey of the Congregation to see what we all felt would be some Goals to get Grace better known in the Community. One of the top ideas was to host "Information Only" mini-seminars. We will be hosting the FREE End of Life Planning Series each Wednesday, beginning May 4th from 6:30-8:00 P.M. The topics will be: Financial Planning, Legal Planning, Funeral Planning and Funeral Service Planning. Everyone is welcome, so let your family and friends know, they may be interested in attending one or all of the seminars.

Also, mark your calendars, Monday May 16 is the Hawaiian Luau and Thrift Shop Fashion Show. It is always a time for good food and lots of fun!

Judy Downey has resigned as Manager of the Thrift Shop. THANK YOU for all your time and effort.

The regular Vestry meeting this month has been rescheduled and will be held Thursday, May 12 at 6:30 P.M. due to the Seminars. As always, these are open meetings to those interested in attending.

Nancy Wells, Senior Warden

## Thank-you!

*A sincere thank-you to all who made the Easter season services so special—the choir, the bells, those who attended and participated helped make the journey a time to reflect and rejoice!*

*We are blessed to have so many talented and giving individuals.*

### Help Wanted (submitted by Owen Henry)

God has no hands but our hands  
To do his work today;  
He has no feet but our feet  
To lead men in his way;  
He has no tongues but our tongues  
To tell men how he died;  
He has no help but our help  
To bring them to his side.

We are the only Bible  
The careless world will read;  
We are the sinner's gospel  
We are the scoffers creed;  
We are the Lord's last message,  
Given in deed and word;  
What if the type is crooked?  
What if the print is blurred?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ MEMORIAL DAY Office ★  
★ D & ★  
★ Thrift Shop ★  
★ CLOSED ★  
★ May 30th ★  
★ Memorial Day ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

What if our hands are busy  
With other work than his?  
What if our feet are walking  
Where sins allurements is?  
What if our tongues are speaking  
Of things his lips would spurn?  
How can we hope to help him  
To hasten his return?

## Food for Families Report–

Here we are looking at daffodils and beautiful goldfinches with nearly 2 inches of snow but we are thinking spring!!! Aren't we??? We're getting ready to begin cooking some of the lighter warm weather foods but mother nature is not cooperating at this point. We're still preparing hot soups and the cold weather foods, i.e. chili mac casseroles, meat loaf, with all the trimmings of course, but we have had the wonderful blessing of foods from Kentucky Fried Chicken to enhance our menu. We've offered their chicken, mashed potatoes, mac 'n cheese and vegetables. Not to mention their lovely biscuits. These items have helped to offset the rising prices of necessary purchases.

Due to a surplus of KFC, at one time this past month, we were able to share some with the Church of Christ. They also serve in this Food For Families program. This is a community project.

As always, we are so grateful for the wonderful help we receive each week from our faithful helpers. God Bless them all!

Janie and Dutch Klotzner

### Flint River Valley Convocation Meeting Saturday, April 9, 2011

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

It was decided the book, "The Great Emergence" would have a 3-chapter discussion at the meeting in May. Information regarding the CED would be thoroughly discussed at the May meeting.

A Eucharist and picnic for the members of the Convocation and all parishes and priests will be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> at Christ Church in Owosso. Details will follow.

St. Jude, Fenton, had a dinner and silent auction and raised over \$5,000. Also had a food program for kids on spring break that fed over 300 children.

St. Paul, Corunna, had a rummage sale to raise funds to replace the church roof.

St. Andrew, Flint, has Lenten Services and also runs a Food Program on Fridays, Saturday, and Sundays.

St. Christopher, Grand Blanc, has an active music program and also an outreach of knitting wool scarves, mittens and hats for maritime sailors.

St. Paul, Flint, is starting a Priest-In-Charge search and Heather Barta, is leaving soon...

Christ Church, Owosso had their annual meeting with the Bishop and community-wide Lenten services.

Grace Church, Lapeer, having Lenten services with other congregations, the Bishop's visit was April 10<sup>th</sup> with 5 people being confirmed. Starting and End Of Life series for 4 weeks. ECW fashion show in May.

St. John, Otter Lake, food program with 4 church and feed 35-40 families. Silent Auction fund raiser, attended the Blessing of the Trees at the Arnold Farm. They've revised the name of ECW (Episcopal Church Women) to ECP (Episcopal Church People). Their Lenten program is run after Sunday services.

St. John, Dryden, has a You Pick the Hymn potluck, where the congregation meets to select hymns for the next 3 months. They are starting an Every Member Canvas, and have a Soup and Salad Lenten services on Tuesday nights.

St. Dunstan, Davison is using supply priests every other Sunday and has Morning prayer on alternate weeks.

	The Second Sunday of Easter May 1 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Third Sunday of Easter May 8 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Fourth Sunday of Easter May 15 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Fifth Sunday of Easter May 22 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Sixth Sunday of Easter May 29 HOLY EUCHARIST
Clergy Serving	The Rev. Sarah Parks	The Rev. Sue Rich	The Rev. Nancy Steele	The Rev. Nancy Steele	The Rev. Sue Rich
Altar Guild	Lauraine Ferris & Barb Scharping				
Altar Flowers	Clyde & Nancy Pearsall	Bill & Verna Valley	Joan Schwartz	Vicki McIntyre	<b>NEEDED</b>
Sanctuary Candle	Charlie Coutcher	Don & Nancy Wells	Craig & Sandy Arnold	Burns & Doris Rolland	<b>NEEDED</b>
Vestry Lockup	Lauraine Ferris				
<b>9:00 SERVICE</b>					
Ushers/Greeters	Judy Downey				
LEM	Kerry Spencer	Nancy Wells	Kerry Spencer	Nancy Wells	Jennie Spencer
Lector 1*	Barb Scharping	Bob Thomas	Craig Arnold	Wilda Hopkins	Mary Kay Mason
Lector 2**	Judy Downey	Jean Coon	Sandy Arnold	Nancy Wells	Dave Webster
Acolytes	Jennie Spencer	Devin House	Josh Spencer	Nick Bagadinski	Josh Spencer
	Jessica Snipes	Hayden House	Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski	Amy Webster
				Jennie Spencer	
Hospitality Hosts	Steve & Maria Bagadinski	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 John Levitt  
Craig Arnold
- 5 Lori Schmidt
- 6 Bernita Hawes
- 26 Harold Chown
- 28 Donna Aukett

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 30 Steve & Maria Bagadinski

**TRANSFERS IN**

**FUNERAL/MEMORIAL**

**BAPTISMS**

**WEDDINGS**



# ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

The April meeting took place a week later than usual due to the Bishop's visit. Judy Downey has resigned as manager of the Thrift Shop effective April 30. We wish to thank Judy for all her hard work. Darlene West will take over as manager. The scrapbooking event for the last weekend of April is almost here, Della is looking for volunteers to give her a call. **Fashion Show update:** Jennie needs all the models for the fashion show to pick out their wardrobe soon. Nancy is finalizing the food requirements, so you may be getting a call. Have you bought your tickets yet? Do you need more to sell? Della or Lori would be happy to supply you.

We plan on a meeting on May 1st after the service to see what still needs to be worked on for May 16th. Come "join the fun"!

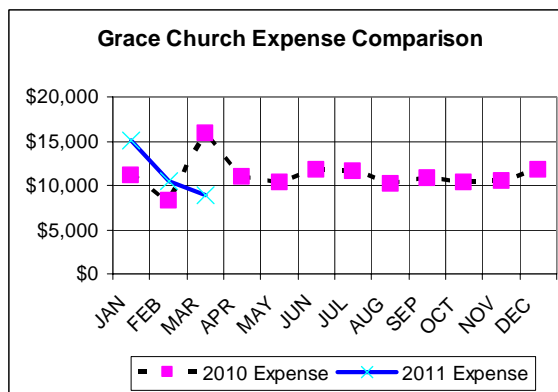
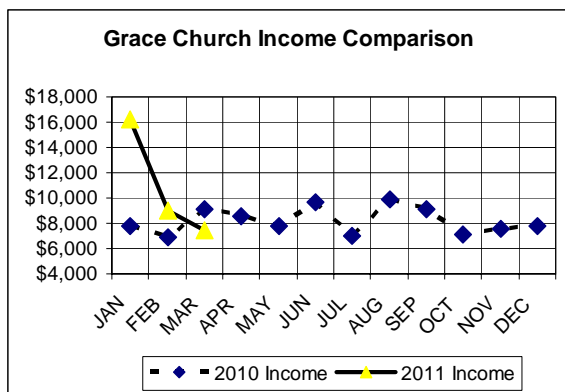
Barb Scharping  
President

P.S. Other events to watch for include the yard sale on June 16th and Poker Palace on July 14-17, and August 3-6. Lapeer Days Egg Roll sale will be August 19 & 20. Mark your calendars today!



## MARCH FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings this month:	\$ 4,865.61	
Transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:	\$	
Total month revenue:		\$ 7,399.89
Total month expenses:		\$ 8,922.18
Income-Expense:		(\$ 1,522.29)
Year to date deficit:		(\$ 2,035.04)
Total assets:	<b>\$ 137,826.85</b>	



## “Change” by Garnet Haase

A group of Ring-necked ducks have taken up residence in my pond. It started with one male and one female then grew to four males and one female. The last couple of days, I've only seen three males. Apparently, the top male ran off one of his rivals. The other males seem to know enough to keep their distance from the lovely lady duck.

It's the first time I've seen Ring-necked ducks in my pond. They've ventured out of their usual range, which they're known to do on occasion. These are diving ducks. They dive under the water and fish for twenty to thirty seconds at a time. It's always fun to watch the comings and goings of the feathered and furry critters that take refuge in my yard each spring. If I could teach them how to mow the lawn and pull weeds it would be really cool. Ah but alas, I fear I'm stuck with those tasks.

Every spring holds new wonders for me. Though some things stay basically the same, each spring is different in some way. The weather is different from year to year. Temperatures vary, winds sway from gentle breezes to stormy gusts. Some

springs are sunny and warm while others are filled with rainy chilly days. Some even have snow clinging to them.

But no matter how unique each spring may be, there remains a constancy that gives hope and revives our spirits. Trees still bud and come to leaf, birds still change into their mating plumage and build nests for their young. The Herefords up the road still drop their calves in the open field. Wild animals have their babies and teach them how to survive on their own.

Humans start sitting on their porches and mowing their lawns and raking up the remains of last fall's leaves. They plant flowers and vegetables and eagerly watch for new growth. People walk their dogs and jog through parks in an effort to shed their winter weight. Each year it's basically the same but the people themselves may well have changed during the past year.

They may have lost loved ones and this spring is tinged with grief. Maybe they finally paid off their credit card debt and feel that a terrible burden has been lifted from their shoulders.

Perhaps they've had to change jobs and are dealing with the uncertainties that brings. Some have fallen in love during the last year and others have fallen out of love.

Even when spring stays pretty much the same, each of us changes from year to year. Our point of view is altered and we experience each spring differently. The seasons, like we humans, both stay the same and change with each passing day. But one thing remains forever new and refreshing while remaining constant. God's love for each of us and for his whole creation is steady and sure. It's not affected by changes in our situations, feelings or attitudes.

We change. The seasons change. But God's love remains unconditional and life-giving. As we watch the daily alterations in nature and experience our own inner fluctuations, let's find peace in the knowledge that God's love for us remains steady and sure.

Yours In Christ,  
Garnet Haase

735 W. Nepessing St., Lapeer 810-664-2841  
Hosting a **FREE** End of Life Planning Series  
Wednesdays in May from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

**I May 4, 2011 Financial Planning**

Chris Topley  
Applied Environmental INC.

Protecting assets  
What money I will need to live out my life  
Planning for my care and that of my spouse  
Legally avoiding taxes



**II May 11, 2011 Legal Planning**

David Churchill, Atty.  
Taylor, Butterfield, Riseman, Howell, Churchill, Jarvis &  
Stietz, P.C.

Medical Power of Attorney  
Advanced Directives (Living Wills)  
Wills  
Trusts

**III May 18, 2011 Funeral Planning**

Colleen Muir  
Muir Brothers Funeral Home

Katie & Mark Capstick  
Lynch & Sons Funeral Home

Preplanning  
Needs upon death

**IV May 25, 2011 Funeral Service Planning**

The Rev. Susan C. Rich  
Grace Episcopal Church of Lapeer

Planning your funeral service

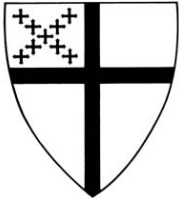
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## **What's happening at Grace:**

Need volunteers to host coffee hour in May and June

Opening for flowers and candle on May 29<sup>th</sup>

May Vestry meeting will be on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – due to End of Life planning ser



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  
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 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		