

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 11, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2009



Episcopal

Relief & Development

Putting faith into action  
To fight extreme poverty  
and disease worldwide

The Episcopal Church has designated the first Sunday of Lent as a special day for congregations to engage with the Episcopal Church's ongoing commitment to fighting extreme poverty and disease worldwide. Episcopal Relief & Development assists people in times of disaster and economic hardship, helping them to improve their lives. It also works with other church programs, non-profit groups and government agencies worldwide toward fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals, adapted in 2000 by the United Nations.

## How you can get involved:

❖ Use ERD's **Lenten Devotional**, adapted from the Rev. Barbara C. Crafton's *Almost-Daily Emos*. Available online in English and Spanish at [www.er-d.org/lentenresources](http://www.er-d.org/lentenresources).

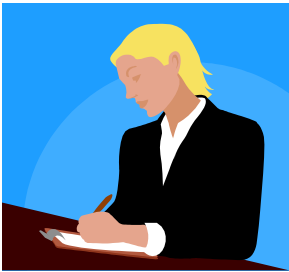
❖ Sign up for daily electronic **Lenten Meditations** at [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org).

❖ Take a special offering on Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday to benefit the Millennium Development Goals **Inspiration Fund** □ For more ideas, visit [www.er-d.org/ERDSunday\\_CT/](http://www.er-d.org/ERDSunday_CT/)

## The Millennium Development Goals Inspiration Fund,

launched in 2007 by the Episcopal Church's Executive Council, Jubilee Ministries and Episcopal Relief & Development, implements programs to fight malaria and other preventable diseases in Africa and Asia, and provides basic health care, health education, and sanitation systems in Latin America and the Caribbean. To help ERD reach its goal of \$3 million by the end of 2009, visit [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org) or call 800-334-7626, ext. 5129.

## VESTRY Meeting Highlights from February 11



Present: Lauraine Ferris, Eldon Card, Doris Stevenson, Nancy Wells, Dick West and Fr. Boli.  
Excused: Judy Downey and Clyde Pearsall  
Guests: Lori Schmidt, Owen Henry and Rev. Mark Engle.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Jr. Warden, Dick West.  
Devotions were led by Lori Schmidt.

**Minutes** from January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and special meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> were reviewed. Voted to accept as presented. *Passed.*

**Old Business:** Discussion regarding Vestry lock up duties and schedule. All months are now covered by a vestry member.

**New Business:** Lori Schmidt presented the Parochial Report for discussion. Motion to approve as presented; supported. Voted to accept; *passed.*

Jr. Warden Dick West wanted the Vestry to consider getting a ramp made for the Thrift Shop back door entrance. He will get more information to present at next meeting. Also he informed the Vestry that he had participated in an inspection of building and grounds in conjunction with the Diocese insurance program. We are in great shape, only a few recommendations – need to consider where/what to do in event of disaster. The fan-out calling list will be revised. Tru Green Lawn Care has submitted a proposal for 2009 season; Dick would like us to continue with local service we had used, Oakridge Lawn Care if we do use a service.

Nancy suggested that future Vestry meetings which are in conjunction with the consultant begin at 6:30 p.m. without having a potluck dinner. Discussion held, unanimous decision to begin as stated.

Lori asked that the vacant Liaison assignments be discussed. Vestry members distributed the various committees so they can be informed what is happening within the church.

**Finance Report:** Motion to accept as presented, support. *Passed.*

Closing prayer given by Nancy Wells.  
Motion to adjourn at 7:05, support. *Passed.*

***Next Vestry meeting will be on Thursday, March 13th at 6:30 due to Wednesday Lenten services.***

*Vestry then began work on Consultant assignment at 7:10 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Schmidt  
Administrative Assistant



# WHO AM I? Meet the Members of Grace

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

By Doris Rolland

***I was born in Flint and grew up in the Nazarene church. I actually studied through correspondence to become a Nazarene minister. I had preached as a child always having a desire to serve God. I graduated from Powers High School.***

***I went to Germany about a year, joined the Navy; served in the Persian Gulf, fathered a daughter, and was discharged in 1991. "My 'tourettes' had its onset in the service".***

***Then I experienced about 10 years of homelessness. My family felt when you're 18, it's time to be on your own. I traveled all the U.S.; worked in a carnival, the circus, and for the Red Cross in Battle Creek. My family called me back to Flint.***

***There I got involved with the Unitarian Church and St. Paul's soup kitchen. That got me involved with the Episcopal Church. From there I moved to St. Andrews, Flint.***

***I initially came to Lapeer because of another Tourette friend, and got involved with Grace.***

***As to hobbies: I design and make my own clothes by hand because I do not own a machine. I do various arts and crafts and enjoy working with beads and leather. I am an Arts member.***

***"I choose to be hermetic and live by these three rules of life: celibacy, chastity, and charity. It is not easy. Living in Lapeer, I have dated. I do so to leave open God's direction for me. I am not a competitive person. I believe in competing, competition becomes one's master."***

***What do I admire? "I admire the Episcopal church structure—the order of the office. I admire those who are in love and have love. I think we long for things we don't have."***

***Who am I?***

Answer on Page 4

## What's happening at Grace...

We **NEED** You! It looks like we will not have a representative for Grace at our Flint River Valley Convocation Meetings. It is only one meeting a month and helps us keep in touch with our Brother and Sister churches in the convocation and Diocese. The next meeting will be at Trinity in Flushing. If you are interested in attending or maybe alternating with someone, please let Lori in the office know so she can get you the agenda and past meeting minutes to review.

# ECW ~ News for you!

February 22 saw the final day of bidding on the silent auction and there were all kinds of 'treasures' waiting for a new home. We were asked to supply 30 dozen cookies for the Red Cross Blood Drive on March 2nd, and as always, the sign-up list was soon filled with wonderful volunteer bakers.

It seems we get one fund raiser completed and it is full steam ahead with planning for the next, which is the Annual Fashion Show and Tea Party on May 4th. It was decided at the last meeting to change a little from previous years and, instead of a tea party, we will have a chocolate festival. Lots of ideas are needed, so please plan to attend the next ECW meeting on March 8th in the Library after the 10:00 service.

Barb Scharping  
ECW President



**FOR SALE**  
**\$10 PER POTTED PLANT**  
**DELIVERY HOLY WEEK**  
*Deadline is March 27th!*

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT OF LILIES:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CHURCH/HOME** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORIAL OR THANKSGIVING (CHURCH USE):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Payment due at time of sale. Please call the office or put form in offering plate/secretary mailbox in library.

WHO AM I? Meet the Members of Grace answer:  
Andrew Weakley

	The First Sunday in Lent March 1	The Second Sunday in Lent March 8	The Third Sunday in Lent March 15	The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 22	The Fifth Sunday in Lent March 29
	HOLY EUCHARIST	HOLY EUCHARIST	HOLY EUCHARIST	HOLY EUCHARIST	HOLY EUCHARIST
Altar Guild	Jennie Spencer, LeeAnna, Jessica & Miranda Snipes				
Altar Flowers	Lent	Lent	Lent	Lent	Lent
Sanctuary Candle	Bill & Lori Schmidt	Rev. William Boli	Dick & Darlene West	Joyce Moore	Charlie Coutcher
Vestry Lockup	Eldon Card				
<b>8:00AM SERVICE</b>					
Ushers/Greeters	Bob Coulter & Jack Hutton				
LEM	Nancy Wells	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells
Lector	Lori Schmidt	Charlie Coutcher	Nancy Wells	Tracey House	Lori Schmidt
Acolyte	Nancy Wells	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells
Hospitality Hosts	Don & Nancy Wells				
<b>10:00AM SERVICE</b>					
Ushers/Greeters	Dick & Darlene West				
LEM	Jennie Spencer	Kerry Spencer	Jennie Spencer	Kerry Spencer	Jennie Spencer
Lector 1*	Jean Coon	Bob Thomas	Barb Scharping	Craig Arnold	Nancy Pearsall
Lector 2**	Jennie Spencer	Kerry Spencer	Vicki McIntyre	Sandy Arnold	Barb Scharping
Acolytes	Jessica Snipes	Julie Reamer	Josh Spencer	Nicky Bagadinski	Josh Spencer
	Christine Williams	Sean Snuske	Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski	Amy Webster
	Jessie Darnall	Caryn Snuske	Vicki Fiebelkorn	Jennie Spencer	<b>NEEDED</b>
Hospitality Hosts	<b>NEEDED</b>	Dave & Jean Coon	Barb Scharping	Dick & Darlene West	<b>NEEDED</b>

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Vicki McIntyre
- 6 Adrianna Phouvone
- 13 Rev. Bill Boli
- 14 Paul Allison Jr.
- 15 Aidan Marino
- 17 Twila Mercer
- 18 Doris Rolland
- 31 Kaye Kneeshaw



**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

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

**TRANSFERS IN**

**FUNERAL/MEMORIAL**  
7 Aaron Snowden

**BAPTISMS**

**WEDDINGS**



# MARCH 2009

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					

# A look at Lent



The season of Lent is a time when we prepare our hearts, minds and souls for the sacred observances of Christ’s death on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter. In Lent, we recognize we are simply dust and ashes without Christ, we confess our sins to God, and we follow Christ to the cross, where we are made whole again. In the early Church, the six weeks of Lent were a time of training and instruction for converts to Christianity who were preparing to be baptized on Easter. The English word “Lent” is derived from the Germanic root for “long,” because Lent occurs in spring, when the days lengthen.

**Forty Days.** Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Sundays are excluded from the counting of the 40 days because they still remain “little Easters” even during this solemn season. The number 40 is significant because, at the start of his ministry, Jesus spent 40 days fasting, praying and resisting temptation, as we are called to do during Lent.

**Three Disciplines.** Traditionally these three disciplines are associated with Lent:

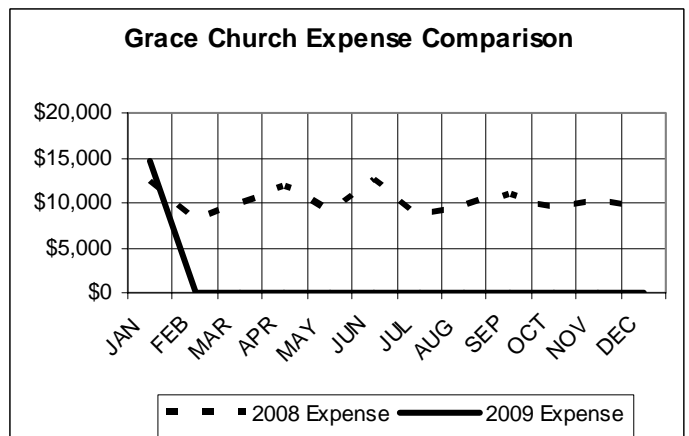
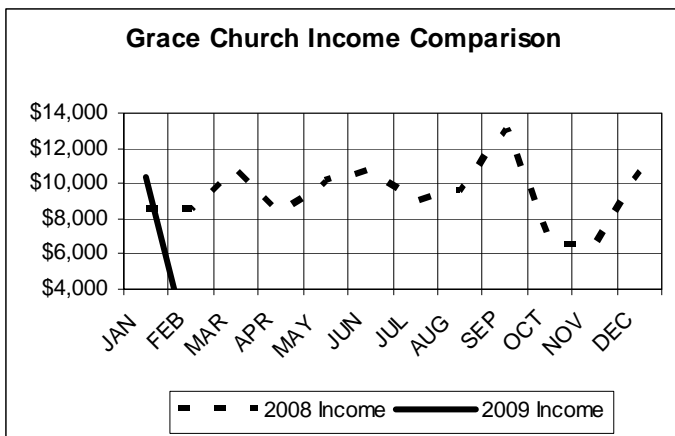
- Fasting. Skipping a meal once a week or refraining from eating certain foods affords us the opportunity to spend more time feeding on the Word of God and being spiritually nourished through prayer and meditation.
- Abstinence. Removing a particular bad habit, sinful indulgence or guilty pleasure from our daily routine frees us to engage in activities that are God-pleasing and reflects in a small way the self-sacrifice that Christ endured for us.
- Almsgiving. Giving something extra during this time—to our church, to the poor and needy among us, to charities or other service organizations—is a way to remember that Christ gave up everything to save us from sin, death, and the devil and to free us to live a new life in him.

**One Focus.** Our focus during Lent is solely on the cross of Christ. For it was on the cross that the sinless Son of God suffered and died for us that we might be fully forgiven and live forever with him in heaven. Reading Scripture verses about the events leading up to Christ’s crucifixion and putting a cross in a prominent place where we can see it often keep our focus strong.



## JANUARY FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings:	\$ 5,952.23
Total revenue:	\$ 10,369.48
Total expenses:	\$ 14,671.95
Income-Expense:	(\$ 4,302.47)
Year to date deficit:	(\$ 4,302.47)
Total transferred from LCBT to cover deficit in 2009:	\$0.00
Total assets:	\$ 136,387.03



## “Taking Time to Ponder” by Garnet Haase

March is one of my favorite months. It marks the start of spring, at least on the calendar, and spring is my favorite season. In the spring I'm thrilled by the flowers and trees that burst into bud and leaf, by the warming weather, by the lengthening days and especially by the March winds. What can I say? I like wind.

March is also special because it's the primary month of Lent. Whether Easter comes early or late, much of Lent falls in March and Lent is my favorite season of the church year. Now that may seem strange to many of you. Lent, after all, is a season of subdued music played in minor keys. We cut the alleluias out of our liturgy and emphasize Jesus' torture and death. It's a time for repentance and forgiveness. But it's also a time when I lose weight every year.

Each Lent I give up all the goodies that add the extra pounds I tote around most of the time. During Lent I'm able to do for religious reasons what I don't do for health and cosmetic reasons. In addition to giving up some food item, I also try to think of something positive to add to my daily routine while giving up some unwanted habit or attitude that I allow to infect my life.

Lent reminds me of my need for Christ and his sacrificial death on my behalf. It's important for us to ponder our lives and the inner workings of our hearts and minds and souls on a regular basis. Lent offers us a special opportunity to do just that. Even though Lent is a busy season of the church year with its extra worship services and activities, especially during Holy Week, it's still a time for quiet reflection and meditation, prayer and fasting.

I need my Lenten discipline. Is it easy or fun? No. Do I like to think about all the ways I fail, all the ways I daily put myself before God, all the ways I hurt people thoughtlessly and sometimes very deeply? Do I like looking at the dark side of my spirit? No. Do I enjoy remembering all the ways I've been unloving and anything but Christ-like? No, none of us does. But how can we comprehend the depth and breadth of God's mercy and love, demonstrated by the sacrifice of his life for ours, if we don't recognize our need for his forgiveness?

As I journey through Lent, I'll take a long look at my self-centered attitudes that drag me down, puff me up with pride, blind me to the truth about myself and draw me away from my Lord and I'll ponder my need for his healing touch and for his mercy and peace.

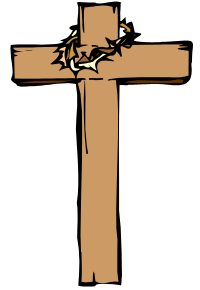
I also will look with hopefulness to the blossoming of the crocuses, the warmth of spring and the winds of March. May God bless us with insight and inspiration throughout this Lenten season.

Yours in Christ,

Garnet Haase

# “Why? Answering Tough Questions About the Christian Faith”

Ecumenical Lenten Dinner & Teaching Series

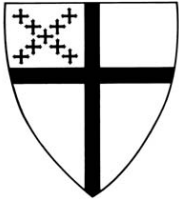


March 4	Immaculate Conception 814 W. Nepessing St.	Why was Jesus Born? Pastor Nik Schillack
March 11	Grace Episcopal 735 W. Nepessing St.	Why is there suffering? Pastor Todd Smith & Pastor Nik Schillack
March 18	St. Matthew's 1009 N. Saginaw St.	Why is Sacrifice needed? Fr. Aaron DePeyster
March 25	Christ the King Lutheran 1175 S. Lapeer Rd.	Why do we die? Pastor Todd Smith
April 1	First Presbyterian 433 N. Calhoun	Why is Church necessary? Fr. Jack Irvin

6:00pm Soup & Bread Supper  
6:45pm Worship & Teaching  
7:30pm 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 7:30 p.m. Feel free to invite family and friends to join with us in this Lenten experience.



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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 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 – 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
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
Nancy Wells	Vestry Member	810-664-9793	Outreach/Worship
David Coon	Treasurer	810-797-4712	
	Staff		
Nick Ward	Organist		
Paul Allison	Sexton		
Lori Schmidt	Administrative Assistant		
Vicki McIntyre	Bookkeeper		