

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 5

MAY 2009

An Easter Message

The light returns and the days lengthen, even if it remains startlingly dark as we rise these days -- daylight savings time is not always a blessing so early in the year! Christians, however, look for light even in the midst of darkness, for we know that darkness will not overcome it. The rising of the Son brings light into lives filled with grief, agony, and despair. Are you searching for the light of new life?

Easter recollects us and reorients us toward God's eternal light of truth and



peace and love. The resurrection is the ultimate proclamation that nothing can separate us from that light, not despair or destruction or death. We see hints of that resurrection all around us once our eyes have learned to look, and we continue to hope for its fullness, for the blessing of a light so encompassing that there can be no darkness or separation. Lent has been a willingness to experience the darkness of our current separation and

tune our yearning for that light. Carry that yearning into Eastertide, and beyond, that we and the world around us may know the blessing of the light of Christ.

Anthony Siffert Schori

Presiding Bishop &
Primate

VESTRY Meeting Highlights from April 15



Present: Dick West, Doris Stevenson, Lauraine Ferris, Nancy Wells, Judy Downey, Clyde Pear-sall, Eldon Card and Fr. Boli

Guests: Lori Schmidt, Doris Rolland and Rev. Mark Engle

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Sr. Warden, Judy Downey, who also led devotions.

Minutes from the March 12, 2009 Vestry meeting were approved as written.

Old Business: Doris Rolland gave an update on the columbarium status. She invites everyone to look at what has been done. She reported an addition to budget request—but will still be under projected cost. Wants Vestry aware of purchases.

New Business: Sr. Warden Judy discussed the cleaning contract with Team Work. Jr. Warden Dick will meet with Director and Program Director to discuss any concerns. Sr. Warden Judy presented a Diocese conference in Davison for Vestry members and anyone interested in attending from congregation “Navigating the Storm”. She encourages all members to attend. Nancy Wells discussed implementing a Service Directory. This will be so our congregation is aware of the variety of skills we have in our own parish. Lori presented information regarding a request to change from Consumers Energy—discussion held and determined will remain as we are. The Diocese is presenting Safeguarding Children and Safe Church programs—we have some members that need this training. We are looking at having enough to host at Grace.

Finance Report: Lori presented the information—motion to approve as presented, supported. *Passed.*

Liaison Reports: Nancy wells reported the Food for Families doing well—looking into change of refrigerator and stove, will be getting a bid on removal and installation of new equipment. The Thrift Shop has the spring clothing in.

Priest’s Comments: Easter was glorious, over 130 attendees. Had lots of fun—thanks to all who worked so hard. Really pleased with Dave Coon and the Bell Choir. We are getting prepared for Bishop Ousley’s visit on May 31st. Will be having one service at 9:00 and a reception following. Also wanted to inform the Vestry that after looking over statistics, our average member age is well below the age of 70! We have several under that age and are seeing younger people joining us.

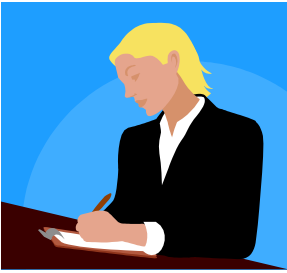
Vestry then began work on Consultant assignment at 7:20 p.m.

Closing prayer given by Lauraine Ferris.

Next Vestry meeting will be held on May 13, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Schmidt
Administrative Assistant



Seven weeks, of sun and fun in Florida. Sunny skies, sandy beaches, brilliant sunsets, family time, God is good! Thanks to all of you who carried on through ice and snow to keep Grace flourishing. Special thanks to Jennie Spencer for her spiritual leadership during Easter week and of course thanks to Fr. Boli, our fearless leader. A tip of the hat to Dave Coon for motivating the bell ringers and thanks to Garnet for her special talents.

I informed Vestry that through Katie Hitt's family, we will be able to purchase a new refrigerator for the church kitchen. The present one will be stored in the garage, especially to do egg roll duty. Many thanks to Dutch Klotzner for his time spent researching the new refrigerator cost, size, etc.

ECW is working hard on plans for the Spring Chocolate Festival and Thrift Shop style show. Bring your friends and feast on your favorites.

Vestry met on April 15th with our consultant, The Rev. Mark Engle. The vestry members have given a great deal of time and discussions with the consultant process. We will be sharing all of this with the entire congregation on May 17th and June 14th. This was a commitment issued to us by Bishop Ousley and the Vestry has respected the order. Please plan to attend these meetings after the 10:00 service to hear what the community believes about Grace, what your Vestry believes and you can voice your beliefs at these meetings.

Lastly, our organist, Nick Ward, gives us such heavenly music selections each week throughout the year; we tend to take it for granted. Believe me; I have been at other churches where there is no organ or choir, a sad feeling.

Judy Downey
Sr. Warden

We need your help!

What in the world is going on?

Want to be in the know? Come to an important parish meeting on May 17, 2009 after the 10:00 service. The Vestry and our consultant, The Rev. Mark Engle of Battle Creek, will bring you up to date on what we have been doing so far.

Data collection and analysis are done. Now we **need the help of the congregation** to proceed to the next step. This has been a very different process than we have been through in the past. Your attendance is **extremely important**. Please mark you calendars and 8 o'clockers plan to come back for the brunch and one hour meeting.

Brunch will be served before the meeting courtesy of the Parish Life Committee.

Your Grace Church Vestry

WHO AM I? What I Believe.

(A report to help Grace church members know each other better.)

By Doris Rolland

Notice the heading change? Well you know it adds zest to living as we learn new things and change as a result. To date, 'Who Am I' has been a litany of statistics about where we were born and some of the experiences we've had to present. But, does it really reflect in a more realistic way who we really are? So unless you can find someone who will take over this little column, I decided to add a twist to the question, in so doing, perhaps we will learn more about ourselves.

Since I appeared in WHO AM I, I'll use myself as a guinea pig for the second half of the question. Here goes.

Looking back on my life, I know that since early childhood, I watched people. Those who impressed me in some way, I tried to emulate. In turn, throughout life, I have tried to set an example that perhaps others might choose to follow. Over time, I have become more aware of the amazing power of the individual and the absolute God-like spirit that resides in every human being. For example: I am awed by Dave Coon who recently suffered a 'big insult', and who comes back into the swing of things CHEERFUL, THOUGHTFUL, OUTWARD LOOKING, and taking on the job of directing the bell choir. Jean, his wife, too, in the face of obvious adversity, something that could trip many of us, continues her duties and in addition, volunteers in so many ways at church. Looking at them, yes they show me I can be a better person.

I believe in the vast array of good in a spectacular array of diverse individuals, and, in peoples' incalculable, infinite and often marvelous way of caring.

Doris Rolland

Bishop's Visit



Our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. S. Todd Ousley will be visiting Grace Church on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st for **one** 9:00 service.

During his visit if you or you would like your child to receive Baptism, Confirmation, Reaffirmation of Faith, or Reception into the Episcopal Church these Sacraments and Rites of the Church will be available. Please contact Lori at the Church Office (664-2841) or Fr. Boli as soon as possible.

Bishop Ousley's visit will include a potluck reception for him following the service. Watch for potluck sign up sheets in the parish hall on May 17th.

	The Fourth Sunday Of Easter May 3 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Fifth Sunday Of Easter May 10 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Sixth Sunday Of Easter May 17 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Seventh Sunday Of Easter May 24 MORNING PRAYER	The Day of PENTECOST ONE SERVICE 9:00 May 31 HOLY EUCHARIST
Altar Guild	Lauraine Ferris & Barb Scharping				
Altar Flowers		Bill & Verna Valley		Vicki McIntyre	
Sanctuary Candle	Charlie Coutcher	Don & Nancy Wells	Craig & Sandy Arnold		
Vestry Lockup	Lauraine Ferris				
8:00AM SERVICE					
Ushers/Greeters	Bob Coulter & Jack Hutton				
LEM	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells	
Lector	Charlie Coutcher	Nancy Wells	Tracey House	MaryKay Mason	
Acolyte	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells	
Hospitality Hosts	NEEDED				
10:00AM SERVICE					
Ushers/Greeters	Craig & Sandy Arnold				
LEM	Jennie Spencer	Wilda Hopkins	Jennie Spencer	Kerry Spencer	Nancy Wells
Lector 1*	Peg Supernault	Wilda Hopkins	Barb Scharping	Jennie Spencer	Craig Arnold
Lector 2**	Nancy Pearsall	Bob Thomas	Jean Coon	Vicki McIntyre	Sandy Arnold
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	
Hospitality Hosts	LeeAnna Snipes Jessica & Miranda	Craig & Sandy Arnold	Congregation Mtg. Brunch	Barb & Deb Scharping	Dick & Darlene West

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 John Levitt
Craig Arnold
- 5 Lori Schmidt
- 11 Robert Thomas
- 19 Savannah Barnes
- 27 Sai Phouvone
- 28 Donna Aukett
David Watts

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 27 Bob & Lynne Coulter
- 30 Steve & Maria Bagadinski

TRANSFERS IN

MaryKay Mason

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL

BAPTISMS

WEDDINGS

5/8 Cooper/Ames



**Birthdays
& Anniversaries**

MAY 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						

What is happening at Grace...



Please turn in your Episcopal Relief & Development Hope Chest boxes on Sunday, May 17th. There are also envelopes in the back that can be used for donations; they can be put in the collection plates or in the office mail box in the for library. Thank you for your support.

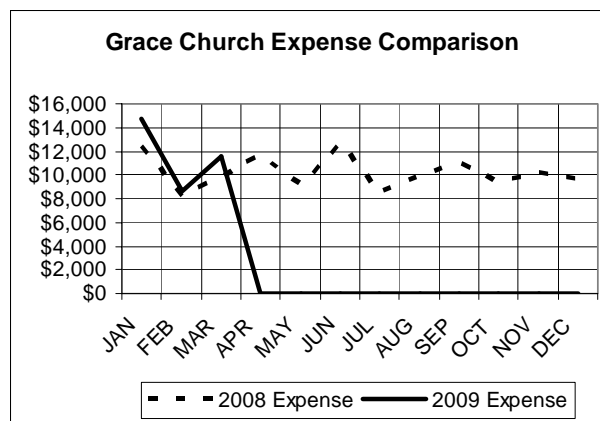
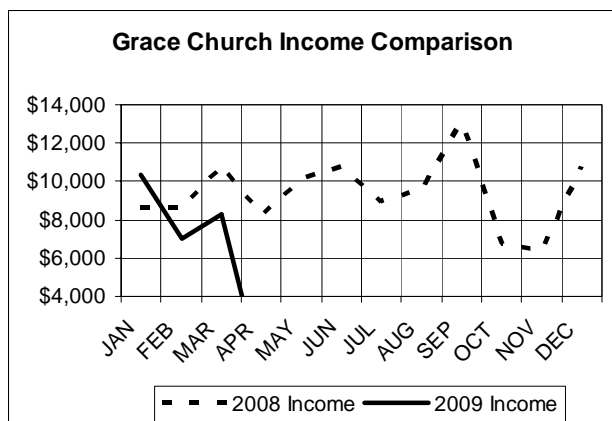


PENTECOST is May 31, 2009. Pentecost is the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit. At the first Pentecost after the death and resurrection of Jesus, it says in the book of Acts that there was a sound “like the rush of a mighty wind” followed by “tongues of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them.” Along with this, the apostles were suddenly able to speak in foreign languages and all of those gathered from other nations were able to understand the message in their own languages. We too will have at the 9:00 service the opportunity to hear the lessons in many languages. We would like to encourage everyone to wear red to celebrate Pentecost. The Rt. Rev. S. Todd Ousley, Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan will be presiding at our service.



MARCH FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings:	\$ 6,138.73
Total revenue:	\$ 8,272.09
Total expenses:	\$ 11,541.46
Income-Expense:	(\$ 3,352.37)
Year to date deficit:	(\$ 9,544.03)
Total transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:	\$5,000.00
Total assets:	\$167,378.60



“Spring’s transformation...” by Garnet Haase

The frogs are singing. It must really be spring. Oh sure, according to the calendar it’s been spring for more than a month but frogs don’t carry Day Planners to my knowledge. Instead, they look for other signs to tell them when it’s time to sing their songs of new life in all its abundance.

Frogs aren’t the only indicators that this part of the world is coming alive though. In the last few days I’ve seen a Great Blue Heron hunting around the edge of my pond, rabbits romping, wild turkeys cavorting, a pair of Bufflehead ducks floating on the pond in between dives beneath the water in search of unsuspecting food and two geese resting in the pond on their way north.

Flowering trees are in bloom, the grass is greening and the days are warming. Farmers are plowing their fields in preparation for planting and farm animals are giving birth to their lambs and calves and foals and piglets.

May is one of my favorite months. It’s filled with sights and sounds and scents that proclaim nature’s rebirth. Soon yards will be filled with colorful flowers and people who remained hidden during the winter will suddenly reappear. So will my sheepdogs once I finish shaving off their winter coats. Spring cleaning will be done inside and outside of many homes — so I’ve heard. New life, fresh starts, community ... hmm ... spring sounds a lot like baptism.

In baptism we’re baptized into Christ’s death so as he was raised from the dead we too might walk in newness of life, according to the Apostle Paul in the sixth chapter of his letter to the Christians in Rome. We’re given a clean slate. Our sins are forgiven and we must live as if we know the tremendous sacrifice God made for us.

Too often we forget why Jesus had to die. We take his gift for granted. We fail to understand that each and every one of us deserves eternal death but instead God is offering us eternal life. Consequently, we may not show much gratitude. But when we take seriously the gravity of our unloving thoughts and words and deeds then we’re more likely to appreciate God’s gift of life.

In coming weeks, the trees and bushes will be showing off their new spring finery. Their leafy hands will be swaying in the same breeze that sets our curtains fluttering and the daffodils dancing. Nature knows enough to rejoice in the new life God gives it. How much more should *we* praise our Lord and show our gratitude?

As we watch spring’s transformation let’s remember that we also must walk in newness of life. Let’s ask God to help us grow into the people he wants us to be and let’s thank him for giving his life so we might have new life in all its abundance now and forever.

Yours In Christ,
Garnet Haase



We welcomed Cash Russell into the body of Christ with his baptism on Easter Sunday! Congratulation to Cash, Shari and Walter Russell. May we be as much a blessing to them as they are to us.

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

It's a busy time for ECW, the chocolate festival and fashion show is just days away and this program is new, so if anyone has idea's **PLEASE** call Barb, Della, Nancy P., Jennie or Lori. Hope everyone is busy selling tickets and please let Della know if you need more, or how many you have sold so that we will have a rough idea of how many tables to set up. The sign up sheet is in the Parish Hall if you would like to bake something chocolate or if you can bring fruit, etc. for dipping in the fountains (i.e. strawberries, bananas, pineapple or marshmallows).



The models are getting their clothing from the Thrift Shop and will be looking good for spring and summer!

Barb Scharping
E.C.W. President

Two Congregational Meetings Scheduled

Since October, 2008, Grace Church's leaders have been exploring our congregation's life and work. We gathered information about how we see ourselves, how our neighbors see us and lessons from our history. Through eight two hour evening sessions, we gathered together threads from the information we had gathered identifying "trigger" issues that move us back into ourselves. As we worked to "build a strong foundation for congregation and clergy at Grace Church," we have found that many concerns we once saw as liabilities have within them seeds of strength and compassion.

We are excited about what we have done. Now, we seek to include the Grace Church congregation in steps to bring those seeds to life and new growth. Vestry members with their consultant, the Rev. Dr. Mark Engle, have prepared two congregation meetings to share our journey widely through our parish family.

On Sunday, May 17, following a brunch, you are invited to learn about the process we have been following. Vestry and Consultants will offer you a look inside that journey. We will share the steps that led up to bringing on board our consultant along with the steps we have taken deeply to understand how our life is shaped by our outlook, our neighbors and our history. This hour long meeting will give you a thumbnail sketch of the road we have traveled. Our work has helped us to transform liabilities into assets, weaknesses into strengths. This step is designed to include you in an ongoing process of communication which will bring more transparency to the working of our congregation and build loyalty and accountability among parish members and leaders.

A follow up meeting will follow church on Sunday, June 14. Then we will find out from you some ideas for action steps that will contribute to Grace Church's continued health and strength. Vestry members working with you will plan attainable objectives in areas of parish life. These will form the seedbed for parish renewal among ourselves, in our community and with our leadership.

We are grateful for the 15 parish members who have helped shape our vision so far. Your participation in the next steps will be important to our continuing growth and development.

So, mark your calendar and plan to be on hand for these two gatherings.

Columbarium Committee Update

The columbarium committee is pleased to report we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel! Eldon Card has cleared pertinent codes with the city. Dick West has spoken recently with the Fire Marshall. Charlie Coutcher has quilted wall hangings. The stair gate is up. Paul Parsch has completed the restoration of the wood doors and ceiling. Bill Schmidt volunteered to paint the area and mount the columbarium. Painting is complete. Three columbarium manufactures were explored by Bernita Hawes, Charlie Coutcher and Doris Rolland. The vestry was presented with two and selected Armento. The columbarium was ordered in January, requires three months to fabricate, and delivery is expected in the

middle of May. Buddie Beyer has volunteered to build the wood surround for the columbarium. Lori Schmidt ordered a twenty-five count votive candle stand. It is here. It is the same as the one in the sanctuary. Furnishings are ordered. Carpeting was installed April 20th. Doris Rolland sewed curtains and Dave Webster located faux stain-glass windows. Both will soon be installed. Joyce Moore will later explore the possibility of having real stain glass on the west windows. Fillmore Thomas is donating a magnificent outside, special order, fire-rated wood door, installation included. Paul Allison did a fantastic job of polishing the door brass plates saving the cost of replacement. The vestry, Paul Allison, and Fr. Boli have supported the project all the way. Thanks to the phenomenal gen-

erosity of so many, the project is coming under budget. Committee work is nearly complete. Through Jennie Spencer's research, recommendations for the documents will soon be forthcoming. Bob Thomas will be checking the adequacy of those papers.

God has blessed us so mightily. It is hoped that the project will be finished by the end of May and a dedication with Fr. Boli's blessing can be held. Because the outside door is a specialty order, it may not be installed by then.

Doris Rolland
Chairperson

Congratulations!



Miranda Snipes, daughter of Mike & LeeAnna Snipes, granddaughter of the late Sue Thurlow and great-granddaughter of John Shepherd, is a recipient of the President's Academic Award! To qualify, a sixth grade student must score a performance level of one, in both math and reading, on the MEAP Test and achieve an A-grade point average from fourth grade through the second semester of sixth grade. She will receive recognition on May 6th at Lapeer West High School. Be sure to let her know how proud we are of her!

Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Luke 15:11-21

G	W	F	I	L	L	E	D	S	F	T	N	E	S	B
O	I	L	E	Y	O	S	E	M	G	A	S	E	N	A
T	L	E	L	O	N	P	A	R	S	T	T	E	M	C
G	D	S	O	U	G	A	T	A	A	D	V	H	O	K
N	N	M	H	N	E	R	H	T	C	A	L	L	E	D
I	U	I	W	G	D	E	E	O	E	D	F	E	K	R
V	O	H	V	E	I	C	M	H	I	R	E	D	I	S
I	R	T	P	R	O	P	E	R	T	Y	E	H	S	F
L	A	S	Q	U	A	N	D	E	R	E	D	V	S	S
O	U	T	N	S	I	T	E	E	P	I	G	S	E	U
K	I	T	S	M	N	R	S	Z	S	F	O	O	D	S
N	R	I	A	E	A	E	A	T	I	N	G	G	T	E
Y	O	F	P	H	H	C	A	M	O	T	S	O	F	J
N	A	S	S	I	N	N	E	D	E	D	I	V	I	D
N	A	G	E	B	T	S	E	N	S	E	S	C	L	L

Parable of the Prodigal son

Puzzle #164

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| ARMS | JESUS |
| AROUND | KISSED |
| BACK | LIVING |
| BEGAN | LONGED |
| CALLED | MEN |
| CITIZEN | OUT |
| COMPASSION | PIGS |
| COUNTRY | PROPERTY |
| DEATH | SENSES |
| DISTANT | SENT |
| DIVIDED | SEVERE |
| EATING | SHARE |
| ESTATE | SINNED |
| FAMINE | SON |
| FATHER | SPARE |
| FEED | SPENT |
| FIELDS | SQUANDERED |
| FILLED | STARVING |
| FOOD | STOMACH |
| GOT | TOGETHER |
| HEAVEN | WHOLE |
| HIMSELF | WILD |
| HIRED | YOUNGER |

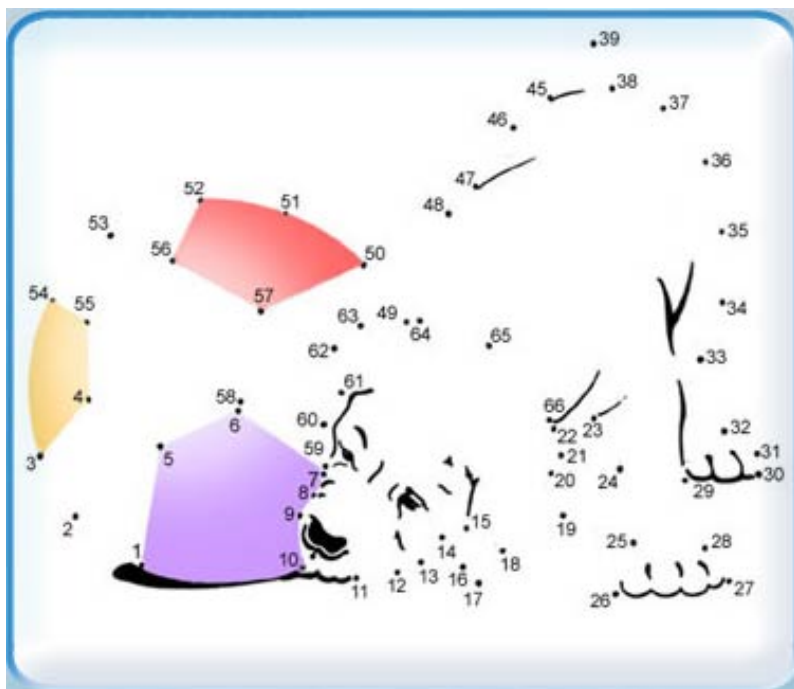
After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

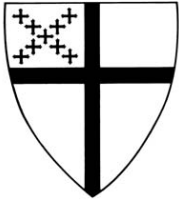
Psalm 47



Happy Mother's Day

Kids Corner





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

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 – 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		