

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 12, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2010

Reflections from Rev. Sue

Dear Grace Community,

As we come upon November my thoughts turn toward Thanksgiving and to all the things for which I am grateful. Naturally you're a big part of that and I'm so glad to be serving God along with you at Grace.

Thank you, choir, for your faithful rehearsals and beautiful singing. Thank you, Nick, for your leadership and for putting so much of yourself into making the choir all it is.

Thank you, vestry, for the time and care you put into serving God through the nuts and bolts operations of Grace. Thank you to our wardens, Nancy Wells and Dick West, for their tireless efforts on our behalf.

Thank you to all our visiting priests, Russ Merrill, Ann Norton, Sarah Parks and Nancy Steele, for their generous gift of time, care and liturgical leadership. Each one of you has become a part of Grace and we are grateful.

Thank you, Lori Schmidt, for all you do that makes Grace run like a well-oiled machine. Your giftedness and presence make such a difference in our lives.

Thank you, Dave Coon and Vicki McIntyre, for all the good work you've been doing on our behalf as our treasurer and bookkeeper.

Thank you, Worship Committee, who serves faithfully through planning and implementing our liturgy.

Thank you to Judy Downey and all who serve God in the Thrift Shop. You take such care in providing a place for our neighbors to come and buy clothing at reasonable prices and not just that but also the ministry of a kind and listening ear.

Thank you to ECW (Episcopal Church Women) who take great care in the ministry of Grace and to Barb Sharping who has been leading the way this year as president.

Thank you to all who serve God through Food For Families. Thank you to Dutch and Janie Klotzner, Lauraine Ferris and LaVern Warner for their leadership in this important ministry of feeding our neighbors.

Thank you to Charlie Coutcher and her giftedness of quilting. Your generosity and passion are an important part of the gracefulness of Grace.

Your Worship Committee discussed having a Thanksgiving service here at Grace. If so, we'd like to know if you prefer a Sunday evening or attend the Ecumenical Advent service at the First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Another option would be to attend St. John's in Dryden for their Thanksgiving service on Tuesday night. Everyone is welcome.

Thanks be to God for the many blessings of this life.

In Christ's love, Rev. Sue

VESTRY Meeting Highlights from October 13



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

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

Approval made of September 8 & 26, 2010 minutes as written.

Old Business: Consultant Goals—Lauraine F. brought a brochure to share which can be used to inform visitors and community of our service and outreach ministries—part of our consultant goals. Discussion on conducting Spiritual Gifts Analysis—possibly at annual meeting—more details to work out—but was suggested that have the annual meeting in nave of church immediately following service; then move to parish hall for luncheon. No update on furnace contracts. The Townsend Fund committee will be formed so in place if event warrants a change. Vestry is to be thinking who might be on this committee. Outside painting bid was submitted. Motion to approve bid by Stephen Heddy, supported. *Passed.* Have two quotes for inside church painting—some questions to get cleared up before further action. Doris presented on behalf of ECW the topic of working at Poker Palace to raise money—vote taken by congregation resulted in 40 yes (19 indicated would work shifts) and 9 no. Motion to approve, support. Majority approved, one nay, *passed.* Will inform them to select dates for 2011. Diocese will conduct EM/EV training in Saginaw—Nancy and Lauraine are planning to attend.

New Business: Assign topics for goal setting at Forum—will have selection to pick top 5. Cleaning around church—some areas need to be addressed. Concern about freezer space—and usage—will discuss with Food for Families—Rev. Sue discussed Bishop's challenge for Appeal for Hatti. Sarah is ready for Bread for World Sunday letter writing campaign. Flint River Valley Convocation grant requests due November 1st. Leadership conference—second in series to be held Nov. 6th—Lauraine and Rev. Sue will be attending. Bishop Ousley will be attending November Vestry meeting to discuss plans. Do not have Stewardship Leader—will distribute pledge cards and request back by Nov. 7th so the budget will be ready for Bishop's visit.

Finance: Dave presented a draft of the proposed budget for review—some changes made and areas to further look at—will wait for pledge cards to have final budget approval. The monthly report showed no money needed to be taken from bank and bills were paid. Motion to approve as presented. *Passed.*

Liaison Reports: Blessing of animals publicity was great, signage for Bazaar in works, Thrift shop had good sales with change of season ware. Worship Committee meeting following forum to plan for holiday services. Hospitality committee hosted pre-convention meeting—all seemed happy with treats.

Vestry Paper Review: Topic of annual giving—be sure to acknowledge with thank-you—personal letters, etc. Recognize throughout year—congregation have awareness of costs—Vestry papers will not be sent—available online—Lori was authorized to submit email addresses so each member will receive.

Priest Comments: We will be hosting the Advent Service on December 8th—similar to Lenten series—only 4 services—Rev. Sue will not preach; only lead service—as there are five clergy in group. More details will be coming.

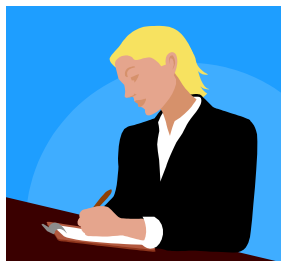
Closing prayer led by Dave Coon. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Schmidt

Administrative Assistant

SENIOR WARDEN Report



The leaves are falling and soon there will be snow (that awful 4 letter word) here to greet us. Not to worry, we have many good things to look forward to as we move forward at Grace Church!

October 3rd was the Blessing of the Animals and bring a friend to church. There were many more pets this year than last year, but not so many friends. So please keep encouraging your friends to come to church with you throughout the year.

Our third quarter Open Forum was held October 24. It went very well. Each Vestry member gave a Liaison Report. Everyone received a survey with several ideas to help Grace Church be better known in the community. These were ideas from a Vestry brainstorming session, and everyone was asked to pick 5 ideas they like the best, 1 being the most important and 5 the least. If you were not at the meeting and would like one of the surveys, please let Lori know. We would like everyone's input.

We will be taking a Survey, by show of hands, for the upcoming Thanksgiving Service. We would like to know how many are interested in our traditional Thanksgiving Eve Service or having a Sunday evening Thanksgiving Service on November 21 prior to Thanksgiving.

The annual Bazaar is quickly approaching on November 6th. If you are able to work, great, if not, just come to see the wonderful crafts and enjoy lunch and fellowship.

The next Vestry meeting will be held November 10th. Bishop Ousley will be visiting to continue our conversation of finding creative solutions to do ministry, which actually started with our Consultant, Mark Engle. Initially there were three objectives, we thought it would be better to work on one and move forward to others. A reminder, the Vestry meetings are open to everyone.

I'm sure everyone agrees how nice the newly painted red doors into the church and the front doors along with the trim look. This was a gift from Fillmore Thomas and is greatly appreciated!

We will be sharing Wednesday evening services during Advent with five other local churches, just as we did during Lent. Grace will be hosting the service on December 8th. We will have more information and sign-up sheets as the date gets closer.

Nancy Wells, Senior Warden

Food for Families Report– Dutch & Janie Klotzner

Hi again!!!

Once again I'm here with some good news and some not so good news. The not so good news is, that unfortunately since the last week of July, our numbers have really been climbing. They're not just climbing they doubled every week during the month of August and have only gone down slightly during the first part of September. The good news is that the wonderful help that we have in the kitchen both in the morning and the afternoon are handling the increased volume with absolute dedication and professionalism. * Our menus during the past two months have included Braised Beef on Noodles with Corn on the Cob and Tossed Salad, Texas Hash, Green Beans Salad and Garlic Bread, Savory Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Carrots and Celery, Tossed Salad and Biscuits, Southern BBQ Pork, Roasted Potatoes, Raw Veggies and Cole Slaw, Chili, Tossed Green Salad Corn Bread, Hot Dogs with Macaroni and Cheese, Broccoli and Carrot/Raisin Salad and Chicken Parmesan with Herb Buttered Pasta, Broccoli, Tossed Green Salad and some of the most mouth watering desserts prepared and served up by Lauraine Ferris our most recent addition to the FFF Kitchen staff. We are now preparing and serving meals for upwards of 100 each week. This includes lunches, LACADA and our dinners. We do offer seconds, if requested, and we have adequate amounts of food, and we also allow take-outs. If you have any questions about our mission please feel free to stop by and have a cup of coffee with us any Tuesday morning from 0730 – 1000.

Ecumenical Advent Service “NOT GOOD ENOUGH”



5:30 pm soup dinner (no soup on 11-24, this is Thanksgiving Eve)
6:30 pm worship and talk

Date	Topic	Speaker	Location
11-24	Mary	Rev. David Hudspeth	First Presbyterian Church
12-1	The Magi	Rev. Niklaus C. Schillak	Immaculate Conception Church
12-8	The Shepherds	Rev. Todd Smith	Grace Episcopal Church
12-15	Jesus	Rev. Fr. Al Volskis	St. Matthews

*Grace Church will be participating in these services as we are the host on December 8th—
watch for more details and information*

	The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost November 7 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 14 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Last Sunday after Pentecost November 21 HOLY EUCHARIST	The First Sunday of Advent November 28 HOLY EUCHARIST
Clergy Serving	Rev. Nancy Steele	Rev. Ann Norton	Rev. Sue Rich	Rev. Sue Rich
Altar Guild	Jennie Spencer & LeeAnna, Jessica & Miranda Snipes			
Altar Flowers	Mary Kay Mason	Joyce Moore	Ted & Harriet Burder	Joyce Moore
Sanctuary Candle	Charlie Coutcher	Don & Nancy Wells	Bill & Verna Valley	NEEDED
Vestry Lockup	Richard West			
9:00 SERVICE				
Ushers/Greeters	John & Kathy Levitt			
LEM	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells	Jennie Spencer	Kerry Spencer
Lector 1*	Wilda Hopkins	Bob Thomas	Kerry Spencer	Judy Downey
Lector 2**	Nancy Wells	Dave Webster	Jean Coon	Mary Kay Mason
Acolytes	Jessica Snipes	Jennie Spencer	Josh Spencer	Nick Bagadinski
	Devin House		Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski
	Hayden House			Jennie Spencer
Hospitality Hosts	NEEDED	Lauraine Ferris	Clyde & Nancy Pearsall	Abi Warner & Bill & Verna Valley

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12 Donald Wells
- 19 Darlene West
- 22 Cathy Webster
- 23 Mary Kay Mason
- 25 Eldon Card
- 27 Owen Henry



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Let the office know if you have an anniversary this month

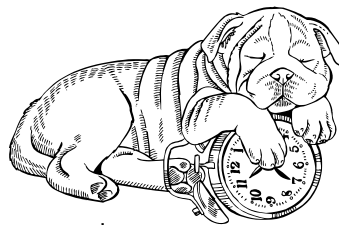
TRANSFERS IN

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL/DEATH

- 10/7 Robert Baird—service to be at later date
- 10/19 Sally Horton

BAPTISMS

WEDDINGS



Daylight-Saving Time Ends November 7th

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

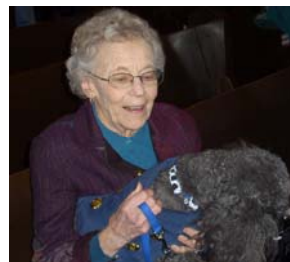
ECW is planning the annual holiday bazaar for Saturday, November 6, 2010. Doors open at 9:00, lunch is served 11:00-1:30, with the raffle drawings held at 2:00 p.m. There will be crafts, decorated baskets, cookies and white elephant items for sale. Lunch will be served and door prizes will be raffled. There will be a sign up sheet for pies, we are asking for two homemade pies from each member. We also need people to help in the kitchen, in the craft area, the cookie walk room, serving the luncheon and clean-up. Please save the date and help wherever you can. Raffle tickets will be available soon from Della or the church office.



This is a great fundraiser and inviting to the community.

REMINDER: Still need to collect 1# and 2# coffee cans for the cookie walk. Thank-you! Thank-you! Thank-you!

Blessing Of the Animals 2010



Did you know...

We have a great website created—check it out at www.gracechurchlapeer.org. If you have suggestions on what to include, please let Lori, in the office, know and she can get it added.



Have you noticed the new paint job on the outside windows and doors? How about our new red door! Fillmore Thomas covered the cost for this building improvement. We are truly blessed to have such a generous donation to make our building look fresh and inviting to our community. **Many Thanks!**



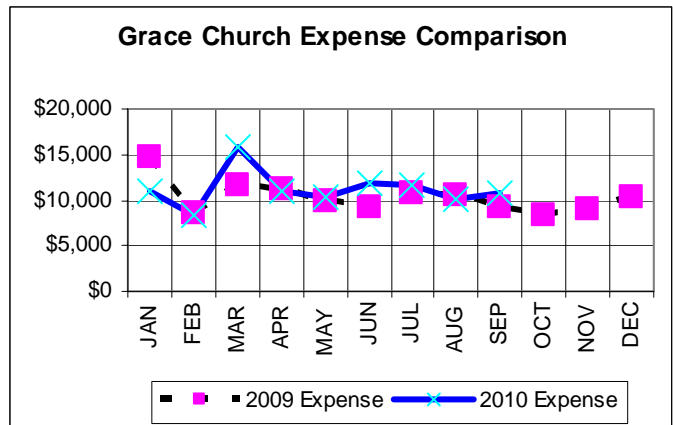
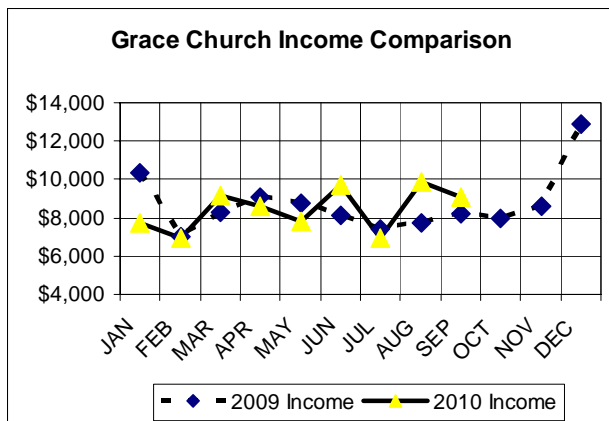
Commitment Sunday is November 7, 2010 Please turn in your pledge cards on or before that date!

The cards can be returned by putting it in the collection plate, in the office mailbox in the Parish Library or sent via mail to the office. Please help the Finance Committee prepare a realistic budget using pledge cards as a tool to calculate income. **THANK-YOU!**



SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings:	\$ 6,202.00
Total revenue:	\$ 9,078.23
Total expenses:	\$ 10,789.58
Income-Expense:	(\$ 1,711.35)
Year to date deficit:	(\$ 24,983.79)
Total transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:	\$22,000.00
Total assets:	\$ 139,983.55



“Support and Encouragement” by Garnet Haase

Tonight I'll watch the reality television show entitled “The Biggest Loser.” The obese contestants are eventually divided into two teams and each team has a trainer working with them on changing their old eating patterns and establishing new exercise habits. Even though the winner gets \$250,000, all the contestants are glad just to be on the show and getting the help they need to lose weight and get fit. The money is an extra bonus.

As the men and women huff and puff, exercise and watch their food intake, they quickly become irritable and moody. Food had been their source of comfort when they were faced with difficulties, frustrations, heartaches, and bouts of boredom. They have all dieted before and have lost and regained hundreds of pounds but this time is going to be different.

For the sake of their health, their families, their ability to tie their shoes, their work and their self-esteem they're willing to weigh in on national television, have their measurements taken and be immersed in a water tank where their body fat percentage is measured. We get to watch them grunting and groaning in the gym.

The contestants are motivated to win. They're willing to endure embarrassment, hunger and exertion to lose weight and get fit because they've hit bottom. They're facing the fact that they need to make changes, in order to save their lives.

Change is difficult. We bristle at the thought of having to give up our old habits and replace them with more beneficial routines. We don't like to admit to our bad attitudes, let alone, work at altering them. Even positive change bothers us because it throws us out of our comfort zones. We like the familiar things in our lives.

Many of the contestants on the show will have problems when they return home thinner and fitter and feeling better about themselves. Not everyone's families and friends will like the new person because they'll be forced to change how they relate to the new improved version of their friend or relative. Thankfully, other contestants will return home to supportive people who will encourage them to continue working after the good start they made during the taping of the show.

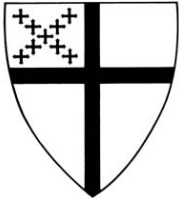
While on the show the contestants have the support of their trainers and fellow contestants. They cheer for one another and understand each other's tears and angry outbursts because they were crying too and lashing out at times. Back home they may not have anyone applauding their triumphs and helping them to work through their setbacks. Consequently, some will undoubtedly return to their pre-show weight.

We, Christians, need each other too. We need to cheer one another on as we fight the good fight of faith. It's not easy being faithful in our sin darkened world. There is strength in numbers. By supporting and encouraging each other we are able to accomplish more than we thought possible. When we're stumbling, the others provide balance and keep us from falling on our faces. They cheer us on and exhort us not to give up.

Even if our families and friends resent our faith in God and our desire to serve him, our Christian “team mates” will understand and will be there for us. Like the show contestants, we won't agree on everything. We'll get on each other's nerves at times. We'll hold different opinions about how best to reach our goals. But like the contestants on the show, we must work together and overcome differences in order to win the prize.

I'm inspired by the contestants' determination as I continue to struggle toward my own fitness goals. I'm also inspired by your faith and service. Let's remember always to support and encourage one another with our hands folded in prayer and with our hands out stretched in welcome. Let's pull together so we and others might receive the prize of eternal life.

Yours in Christ
Garnet Haase



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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 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
Doris Stevenson	Vestry Member	248-909-0121	Stewardship
David Coon	Vestry Member/Treasurer	810-797-4712	Marketing/Advertising Administration
	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. Russ Merrill	St. Paul's
Vicki McIntyre	Bookkeeper	Rev. Nancy Steele	Corunna