

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

PH: 810.664-2841

EM: [gracechurchlapeer@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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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by Garnet Haase

# GRACEFUL TIDINGS

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2011

## Reflections from Rev. Sue

Dear Grace Community,

During this season of Pentecost, in what we refer to as “ordinary time” we have been hearing the Old Testament stories of the Israelites and how God’s people journeyed through their life with God. It’s been fun to get reacquainted with Joseph, Moses and now Joshua. All of them are prominent figures in the travels of the Israelites. Joseph was the youngest of many brothers but loved most by their father.

Through a very long series of events Joseph is left for dead by his brothers, sold into Egyptian captivity, wrongly sent to jail, does good but is forgotten and eventually earns the trust of Pharaoh and becomes his most trusted worker. During the years of abundance, Joseph instructs the workers to store up food and when the area becomes void of food he is able to save his family from starvation.

After Joseph has been dead for quite some time, the Egyptians forget about his benevolence and become fearful of the Israelites, so they are made slaves for Pharaoh. All the boy children are commanded to be killed but one mother puts her son (Moses) in a basket in the river and Pharaoh’s wife hears the cries and adopts him as her own. Soon after the adult Moses learns of his bloodline

he sees an Egyptian worker beating an old Israelite and Moses kills him. He then becomes an outcast to his Egyptian family as well as to the Israelites.

You know the story...Moses goes into the wilderness to hide from God, which isn’t very effective, and God sends him to free God’s people from Pharaoh. With many conversations with the man who raised him, Pharaoh denies Moses the authority to free the Israelites. Many plagues ensue and eventually the first-born male of every household (except the ones with a lamb’s blood painted on their doorposts) died in one night. They were then set free to leave and did so but it wasn’t very long before Pharaoh changed his mind.

The Red Sea parted and the Israelites passed through to the other side and all the Egyptians chasing them died as the waters came rushing back into place. It was then forty years of journeying through the wilderness before Moses died and Joshua led them to the Promised Land.

It’s good to be reminded of the way God moved in the lives of these key figures from the Old Testament. Everything wasn’t always the way they wanted it to be but God was always present desiring to actively be a part of their lives.

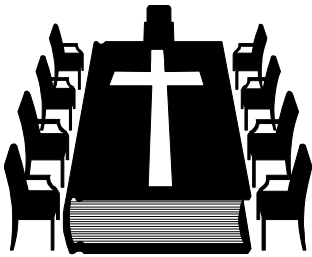
It’s hard to imagine being a part

of a community that seeks a land of plenty and journeys forty years before reaching it. And, yet, every time the Israelites got fearful from being thirsty or hungry God provided all they needed. This is true for us today. When we get thirsty or hungry it’s easy to become fearful. The cool thing is that God is always present desiring for us to invite God into our lives. When we do that it’s great fun to watch and see how God uses us or others or situations to bring about the answer to prayer.

As we prepare ourselves for our ingathering this Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> we can focus on the areas in which we are hungry and thirsty and become afraid or we can allow God to work in us and through us to see the ways our hunger and thirst are being met. As we began on October 9<sup>th</sup> with The Rev. Tracie Loffhagen, please join me to continue to share with one another the many ways we encounter God in our lives. It is through these kinds of sharing that we see and experience the abounding abundance of God.

In Christ’s love,

Rev. Sue



## VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS ~ October 12

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

Opening prayer was led by Rev. Sue and meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Motion made to accept September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as presented. Voted on, *passed*.

**Old Business:** The Celebrating God's Ministries at Grace on October 9<sup>th</sup> was well attended with 26 parishioners. October 30<sup>th</sup> will be the ingathering of stewardship forms. The Faith guide given by Rev. Tracie Loffhagen will be shared with those interested. Copies will be made available. There was nothing to report on the statue case. The deadline for Convocation is November 1<sup>st</sup>. Rev. Sue indicated that money is designed be used for ministerial needs – not building improvement. She will get with grant committee to begin a grant from the Diocese. Rev. Sue passed a thank-you card for Klotzners for all their dedication and service to the Food for Families program. Motion was made to purchase a gift card, support. Voted on, *passed*. Lori will purchase a debit card to be included with the thank-you card.

**New Business:** The new Thrift Shop steps have been completed- wonderful job – a thank-you note will be sent to Tony Tocco for his labor on the project. Motion was made that the materials will be paid for from the building fund, support. Voted on, *passed*. Rev. Sue presented information from the Diocese that individuals working over 20 hours per week will receive a contribution to a pension fund in the amount of 5% of annual salary effective 9/1/11. The finance committee has been informed and it has added the expense in for 2012.

**Finance Report:** Dave C presented the 2012 proposed budget for members to review and ask questions – it will be voted on in December. The September financial reports were presented. No transfers needed this month and the bills are paid. Motion to approve finance reports as presented, support. Voted on, *passed*. Dave mentioned that we might want to consider taking the money out of LCBT investments and put in different account to avoid transfer fees – suggested that we transfer more at one time to reduce number of transfers. Lori will look at fees and report back in November.

**Priest's Comments:** Vestry papers are available on line if interested – go to [www.episcopalfoundation.org](http://www.episcopalfoundation.org). There will be a webinar on November 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Sound Practices for Vestry Leaders. Rev. Sue has been attending Food for Families which she views as extension of Grace family. Feels making great relationships. Met with rotating priests – to evaluate and conversation on next years schedule.

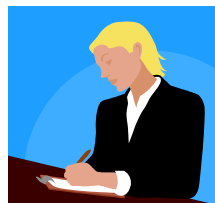
Closing prayer was led by Lauraine Ferris - meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lori Schmidt*

Lori Schmidt  
Administrative Assistant

# SENIOR WARDEN Report



First, a big **THANK YOU** goes to Dick West and Tony Tocco for the nice steps they built at the back door to the Thrift Shop. We needed it for a long time and it is much more convenient going up and down.

We will, again, be participating in the Advent Ecumenical Programs, beginning the end of November. These are always interesting programs along with great fellowship with other churches in the area.

Just a reminder as we approach the holiday season, please remember our home parishioners with cards and phone calls or visits, and the others in our community in need through Love, INC, Coats for Kids, the Refuge etc. There are many ways to show our welcoming presence in the community.

Last, don't forget our annual Bazaar and all the goodies that go along with it! Sign up to work if you are able and see how much fun we all have.

Nancy Wells, Senior Warden

## Ecumenical Advent Services Coming in November!

(Plans are underway but details are not available as of this week.)

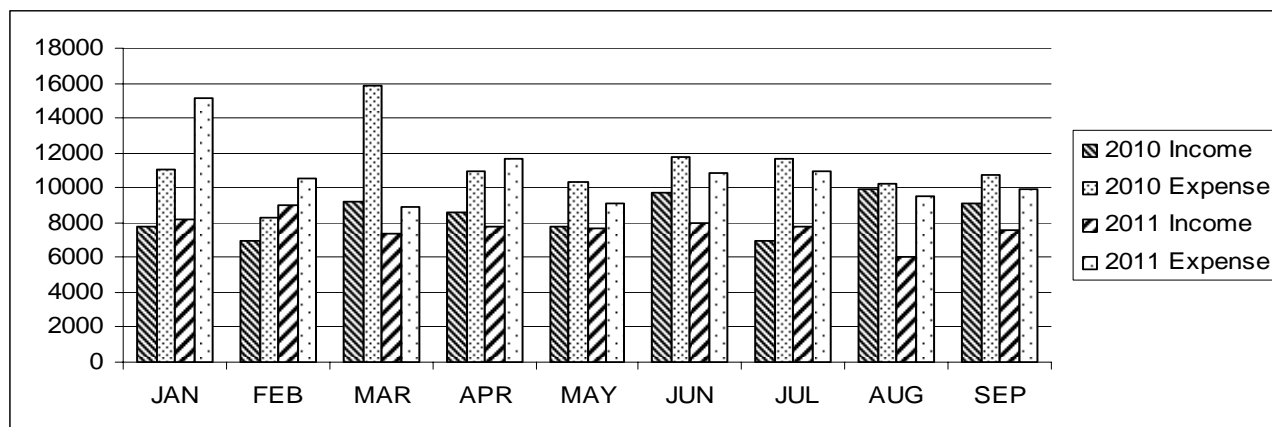


*Grace Church will be participating in these services so watch for more details and information. The first service will be held on Thanksgiving Eve, November 23rd. So mark your calendars!*



### SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings:	\$ 5,614.00	
Transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:	\$	(\$26,000 ~ YTD)
Total month revenue:	\$ 7,540.68	
Total month expenses:	\$ 9,954.57	
Income-Expense:		(\$ 2,413.89)
Total assets:	<b>\$ 121,359.91</b>	



	<b>The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>November 6</b> <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b>	<b>The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>November 13</b> <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b>	<b>The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>November 20</b> <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b>	<b>The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>November 27</b> <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b>
Clergy Serving	The Rev. Nancy Steele	The Rev. Sue Rich	The Rev. Nancy Steele	The Rev. Sue Rich
Altar Guild	Jennie Spencer & LeeAnna, Jessica and Miranda Snipes			
Altar Flowers	<b>Needed</b>	<b>Needed</b>	Ted & Harriet Burder	<b>Needed</b>
Sanctuary Candle	Charlie Coucher	Don & Nancy Wells	Bill & Verna Valley	<b>Needed</b>
Vestry Lockup	Dick West			
<b>9:00 SERVICE</b>				
Ushers/Greeters	John & Kathy Levitt			
LEM	Nancy Wells	Kerry Spencer	Nancy Wells	Judy Downey
Lector 1*	Mary Kay Mason	Barb Scharping	Robert Thomas	Craig Arnold
Lector 2**	Jean Coon	Kerry Spencer	Nancy Wells	Sandy Arnold
Acolytes	Jessica Snipes	Devin House	Josh Spencer	Nicky Bagadinski
	Jennie Spencer	Hayden House	Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski
				Jennie Spencer
Hospitality Hosts	Bill & Lori Schmidt	Abi Warner Bill Valley		Lauraine Ferris

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Lori Coulter
- 12 Don 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!

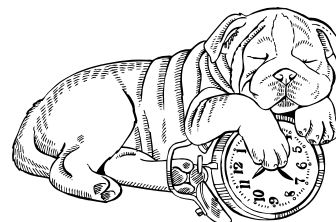
**TRANSFERS IN**

**FUNERAL/MEMORIAL**

**BAPTISMS/CONFIRMATION**

**WEDDINGS**

11/11 Freeza



Daylight-Saving Time Ends **November 6th**

## ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

When you are not busy raking leaves, I hope all the cooks are busy cooking. The craft show and luncheon is next week and we are in need of homemade cookies for the very popular cookie walk and if you still have time; fruit pies for the lunch or any other pies or cakes etc. for the bake good table. Hope everyone has visited Della or Lori for their luncheon tickets. Where can you go and get a chicken salad croissant, homemade soup, homemade pie, coffee or tea for \$6.00 and the raffle has great prizes.

After this fundraiser we are all allowed to take a deserved rest for three or four months, maybe someone can think of a new fun fundraiser, we are always looking for new ideas.

*Barb Scharping*  
ECW President



November 5, 2011

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Luncheon served 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Crafts - Bake Sale - Cookie Walk

White Elephant Sale - Raffle

## Food for Families Report-

It has been a busy month with numbers up both at the parish hall and at LACADA. We served 315 meals in October plus 120 lunches. The menus for this month were macaroni and cheese with beef and tomatoes, fried chicken with mashed potatoes, sausage with beans and sauerkraut, and lasagna, all with a variety of salads, rolls, and desserts. Our guests are very appreciative of our efforts. Thanks for all who lend a hand to make this possible.

*Lauraine Ferris*  
Coordinator

## “Aging” by Garnet Haase

Aging is inevitable. Our once-high-tech computers and phones and television sets are now obsolete. Our clothes are out of style. At least mine are but I'm too cheap to buy anything new, unless I lose thirty pounds and drop three pant sizes. My once pristine carpet has been desecrated by five elderly dogs and a hairball hacking old cat. That same cat discovered she could still jump onto the kitchen counter and decided to use my laptop computer as a potty pan. It made a noble effort to spring into life but the screen remained black and at last it whimpered into lifelessness.

I lost a lot of files that I didn't back up because my flash drives were full. Some of it doesn't matter, some does but there's probably nothing I can do about it now. So I'm using the even older and more out-of-date desk top computer to write this article. I'm sorry for what was lost. Yet in a way it's freeing.

Yesterday, I spent four and a half hours giving my three

acres what I hope will be the last cutting for this season. While I drove around the lawn, I was amazed by how much has changed during the last eight years. Ash trees that were still filled with life and growth have died. One even blew over during the high winds we had a few weeks ago. Other trees and shrubs have grown so large their boughs are now intertwined. Like me and my pets and my computers, they've aged.

But instead of getting bigger, we humans tend to shrink physically. Our joints ache, some of them even squeal if we move just right ... or at all. Our eyes get weaker and our glasses get stronger. Our bones break more quickly and heal more slowly. Yes, aging is inevitable but it's not necessarily a bad thing to be dreaded.

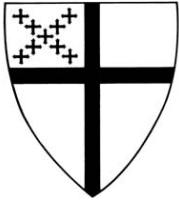
Hopefully, with age come wisdom and a sense of peacefulness. Even a few years ago, I would have been enraged at the destruction of my computer and everything on it. I would have screamed at the cat and brow beaten myself for not moving both the cat and the computer off the counter sooner. Today, I just figure

I'll have to write new things that keep me looking forward, rather than clinging to the past.

Aging can help us see and understand what things are truly important in our lives, like faith, hope and love. Staying close to friends and relatives or reestablishing relationships in need of nurturing takes on new significance. Sharing our stories and knowledge with younger generations strengthens both us and them. No matter how old we get, we still have so much to contribute.

In a few weeks, we'll be celebrating Thanksgiving. Let's not wait until then to thank God for each new day in which to grow in faith and wisdom and to share what we've already learned with one another. Let's thank our Lord now and always for giving us the opportunity to age gracefully.

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

Phone: 810-664-2841 ■ Fax: 810-664-7380

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		