

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

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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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by Garnet Haase

GRACEFUL TIDINGS

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2010

Reflections from Rev. Sue

Dear Grace Community,

I'm reading the book, Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God, by Francis Chan.

In the second chapter he reminds the reader that one might die at any time, we don't know what the next moment will bring. Then he goes on about stress and worry – common occurrences in our day – and he quotes Philippians 4:4,6; "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!...Do not be anxious about anything."

Chan points out that when we focus on problems associated with *my life, my family, my job*, we're not focused on God or rejoicing in God. He goes on:

“Worry implies that we don't quite trust that God is big enough, powerful enough, or loving enough to take care of what's happening in our lives.

Stress says that the things we are involved in are important enough to merit our impatience, our lack of

grace toward others, or our tight grip of control.... [Stress and worry] declare our tendency to forget that we've been forgiven, that our lives here are brief, that we are headed to a place where we won't be lonely afraid, or hurt ever again, and that in the context of God's strength, our problems are small, indeed.”

When I pray with people I often ask God to shower on them the abundant, “perfect love [that] casts out fear” (1 John 4:18a). I'm reminded of this because worry and stress stem from fear, fear of all the “what ifs” of life. When our focus is on God's perfect love for us we're all the more able and capable to offer up the unknowns of life and address the situation(s) as best we can.

There's a lot about which we can be worried and stressed. The good news is that God is the God of perfect love who desires for us to put our trust in God that we not be anxious about anything but in all things rejoice. This doesn't mean we're not concerned or need to make changes in our lives but that we can give the worry and stress to God. And when we do this our burdens are lifted and we are then better equipped for patience, grace and trust that all things will work out.

May our lives be so full of God's perfect love that it overflows into every aspect of our lives and that those without hope will see and be drawn to the wonders of God's love for them, too.

In Christ's love,
Rev. Sue

VESTRY Meeting Highlights from August 11



Present: Nancy Wells, Dick West, Lauraine Ferris, Clyde Pearsall, Doris Stevenson, Dave Coon and Rev. Sue Rich

Opening prayer led by Clyde Pearsall, meeting called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Approval made of August 11, 2010 minutes as written.

Rev. Sue said she had spoken with Mark Engle regarding our goals. Suggested attending the Alban class. She will look for scholarships for the class but would need airfare and hotel.

Old Business: We discussed having the three goal groups reconvening. It was felt that with our small numbers it might be better to have just one goal to focus on and do it really well. We decided that making our church better known in the community would be a good goal. The idea will be brought to the congregation at the Oct. 24 forum.

Rev. Sue shared two samples of spiritual gifts analysis with us. They are still looking for the results of the one done when Rev. Speir was here. The question was brought up about the webinar we had received e-mail about. Rev. Sue is planning to do it next Tues., Sept. 14. It was decided the church should pay the \$29.95 fee.

Lori has spoken to Paul Parsch and the door painting is to be done in the next two weeks. Dave asked about the front window which needs painting. Nancy thought it was part of the door agreement with Fillmore Thomas. Just in case it is not, a motion was approved to have the window done and paid out of building monies as it really needs to be done.

We discussed painting the inside of the church. Rev. Sue explained regulations on lead paint in buildings built before 1978. If you hire someone they must be certified. Clyde is going to check with his guy for an estimate and we will check with Steve Pardington who had done the hallway. We will have Lori ask Paul Parsch to get his certified painter to give us an estimate.

Rev. Sue is contacting Julie Fernandez to get a portrait done.

Nancy read a letter from Bishop Ousley thanking us for our acceptance of our 2011 tithe amount.

New Business: Nancy was at the convocation meeting. She informed us that nominations for the Bishop Leidel award are due by Oct. 1. It will be in the bulletin.

Two men have asked if we would host a seminar on estate planning from a Christian perspective. More discussion will be later in the meeting.

Jr. Warden Report: Dick brought up having the furnaces checked before heating season starts. Last year we used Holland Heating and he would rather not use them again. He is going to get a couple of estimates from Kapala's and Bud's. He will have Lori e-mail vestry members so a decision can be made as soon as possible.

It was brought to our attention that there is a problem with the outside Columbarium door not locking properly. Dick will fix it on Friday. It was suggested that a sign "emergency exit only" be put on the inside parish hall door to keep people from using that outside door.

Dave asked about the large shrubs on the east side of the church that are covering windows. He kindly offered to take care of them since Dick is busy keeping up the regular lawn work.

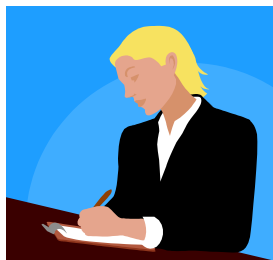
Liaison Reports: Food for Families numbers has been up and they have good helpers. Altar guild is moving along as usual. Thrift shop has had a good week since changeover last weekend. Some are concerned we are getting rid of too much and won't have enough start-up for next spring.

Finance Report: There was no report except what was in our packet. Rev. Sue said we need to convey that our deficit is not sustainable for too long. We need to look at our own giving.

Bible Study: Rev. Sue did a brief bible study with us using the African American style.

Priest's Comments: The stewardship conference has been cancelled. Garnet Haase has offered to do a free educational program relating to personal financial planning. We discussed how it could be part of a series of classes on things like budgeting, estate planning, funeral planning, etc. that we could host for the community. Discuss more at a later date.

SENIOR WARDEN Report



Happy Fall! What a beautiful time of the year.

Just a reminder that Sunday, October 3 will be the Blessing of the Animals along with the opportunity to bring a friend and their animal to church. This will be a great way to show our friends what a friendly and welcoming church family we are!

Also, October 24, we will have our quarterly Open Forum before dismissal of the service. This is a good time if anyone has any questions or comments to address them.

Now, I would like to thank some special members of our church family:

Jean Coon who is on the Planning Committee and instrumental in bringing the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk to Lapeer for the first time. Cathy Webster for being our Grace Church Team Leader for the walk. Dick & Darlene West and Terry & Barb Cook for trimming bushes, etc. and Dave & Jean Coon for the flower bed at the back of the church and Judy Downey & Barb Cook for the Everhardt garden in front.

You have made the grounds around the Church and the Thrift Shop look very nice

Nancy Wells, Senior Warden

Continued from page 1

Sept. 29 Grace is hosting a pre-convention meeting of the Diocesan Review Task Force. Every delegate needs to be there. We will have refreshments for 50-70 people.

Sept. 24 at St. Paul's in Lansing - a class in Anglican Interpretation of Scriptures. Cost \$15 includes lunch. Rev. Sue is thinking of going.

Oct. 3 Pet Sunday - good opportunity to bring a friend as well as your pet

Oct. 5-7 Rev. Sue is on retreat.

Oct. 9 convention business meeting in West Branch

Oct. 16 convention Eucharist with the Presiding Bishop in Grand Blanc

Oct. 17 World Food Day - Rev. Sue will e-mail us information

Nov. 6 - second in the series-Diocesan Leadership Conference-Lauraine would like to continue and encourages others to participate

Christ the King and First Presbyterian are doing a joint Thursday series of services at Christ the King. Nik Schillak has spoken with Rev. Sue about doing a joint service quarterly with us perhaps beginning Jan. 9, 2011. Also they invited our teens to a youth event Oct. 10.

The five churches that do the Lenten programs are planning four Advent programs of dinner and liturgy. We are to host (Dec. 8) one of the Wed. nights (Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22).

Discussion was held on trying to do too many things. We agreed on participating in the Advent series and discuss more at a later time on the Christ the King/Grace joint services.

Closing prayer by Nancy Wells--meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauraine Ferris
Clerk of the Vestry

Flint River Valley Convocation Highlights

Meeting was called to order—agenda and minutes approved.

Treasurer Report: Indicated nothing unusual—payments of grants taken care of; Treasurer of Diocese presented 2011 budget—should receive amount similar to last year; report approved.

President's report: Mission Council Meeting—holding 3 meetings before convention; kudos to our convocation for understanding how diocesan funds need to be distributed. Financial Committee report was to look over loans and grant policy of Diocese—past been for routine maintenance—would like parishes to make improvement and expand ministry. No changes in health insurance for rectors or staff; standing committee making improvements to website which will give access to parishes to have individual pages; delinquent audits need to get to Molly ASAP; good idea to have all parish bookkeepers get together to compare notes and get a degree of standardization in different parishes in diocese. Discussion on Presiding Bishop visit.

Old Business: Bishop Leidel Award deadline October 1st—November 4th Vestry dinner cancelled.

New Business: Convocation support for Diocesan Convention raised to \$2500—budget revised; Fall Clergy Gathering September 24th in Lansing; 2011 Convocation grants approved at December meeting. Book reading/discussion for next Convocation.

Parish Updates: Each church gave what is happening/coming to their parish—Lori has list on file if want to know about a certain event.



SAVE THE DATE...

Saturday, November 6, 2010

9 am - 2 pm

Luncheon served 11:00-1:30

Crafts, cookie walk, white elephant sale, door prizes.

Mark your calendar to bake cookies and pies for the luncheon.

Will be selling baskets - like last year, so start thinking what you want to fill your basket with.

Raffle tickets will be available soon.

	The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 3 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 10 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost October 17 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost October 24 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost October 31 HOLY EUCHARIST
Clergy Serving	The Rev. Sue Rich	The Rev. Nancy Steele	The Rev. Sarah Parks	The Rev. Sue Rich	The Rev. Ann Norton
Altar Guild	Sandra Chapman & Jean Coon				
Altar Flowers	Lorraine Kelch	Craig & Sandy Arnold	Bill & Lori Schmidt	Abi Warner	NEEDED
Sanctuary Candle	Charlie Coutcher	Abi Warner	Vicki McIntyre	Twila Mercer	NEEDED
Vestry Lockup	Lauraine Ferris				
9:00 SERVICE					
Ushers/Greeters	Craig & Sandy Arnold				
LEM	Eldon Card	Judy Downey	Kerry Spencer	Nancy Wells	Jennie Spencer
Lector 1*	Barb Scharping	Bob Thomas	Craig Arnold	Wilda Hopkins	Mary Kay Mason
Lector 2**	Jean Coon	Judy Downey	Sandy Arnold	Nancy Wells	Dave Webster
Acolytes	Jessica Snipes	Jennie Spencer	Josh Spencer	Nick Bagadinski	Josh Spencer
	Devin House		Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski	Amy Webster
	Hayden House			Jennie Spencer	
Hospitality Hosts	Bill & Lori Schmidt	Harold & Virginia Cook	Barb Scharping	Bernita Hawes	Clyde & Nancy Pearsall

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 8 Doris Stevenson
- 28 Lauraine Ferris
- 29 Robert Baird
Devin House
- 30 Joan Schwartz

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Let the office know if you have an anniversary this month



TRANSFERS IN

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL

BAPTISMS

WEDDINGS



ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

The September meeting was taken up with idea's on how to improve, if possible, on the egg roll project, one area that continues to be a problem is the long lines at certain times downtown. We just can't get the egg rolls down there quick enough and the reason is a combination of things, but we are working on trying to do better. Price was another question and that well be looked into further after more discussion.

Now our next fund raiser hopefully is scrapbooking weekend, though so far it's not looking too good.

November 6th is the annual bazaar with lunch, crafts and the white elephant sale. I hope all you crafters are busy making things. The raffle tickets will be available by the end of the month and Charlie has agreed to again donate one of her wonderful quilts. LeeAnna Snipes' dad will donate one of his very much in demand stone bird houses.

See you all 10:30 a.m. second Sunday in October in the library (October 10th!) for the next ECW meeting.

Barb Scharping
ECW President

P.S. Della turned in the final totals from the egg roll sale ~ Total income: \$9,809.35—expenses \$2,868.19 for a profit income of \$6,941.16! Great job and thanks to all the many people who make this event happen...



Flowers & Candles

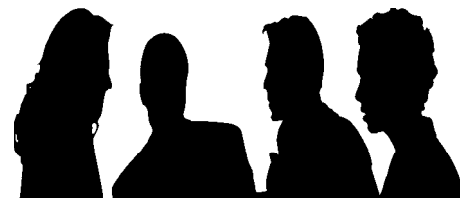
The following dates are available through the end of the year:

Flowers: Oct. 31, Nov. 7 & Dec. 19

Candles: Oct. 31 & Nov. 7

If anyone is interested in these dates, please call Nancy Wells @ 664-9793.

Mark your calendar...We will be having our first Open Forum on October 24th. It will be 15 minutes after the service in the nave before the dismissal. Presentations will be made by vestry members and treasurer and there will be an opportunity for Q&A.



Open Forum



Blessings of the Animals by Kevin E. Mackin, O.F.M.

As autumn arrives, people in various places may notice something odd. A procession of animals, everything from dogs and cats to hamsters and even horses, is led to churches for a special ceremony called the Blessing of Pets. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

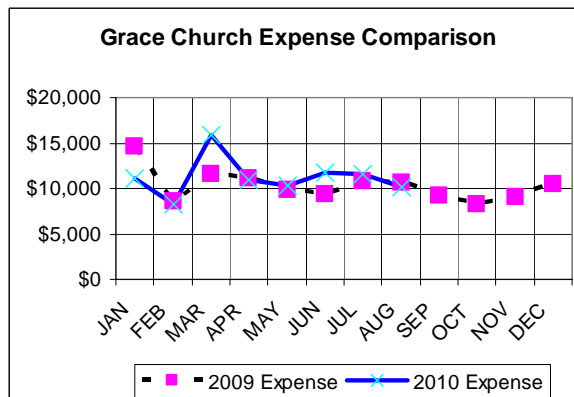
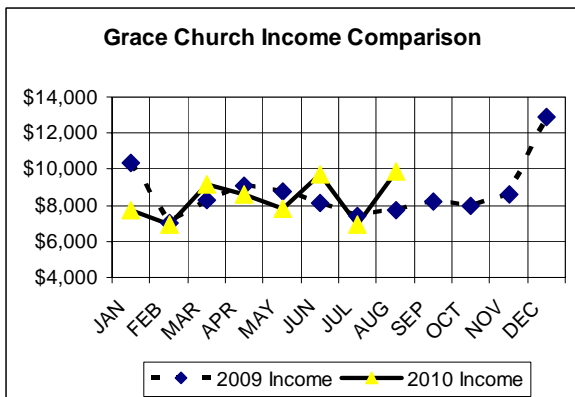
Francis, whose feast day is October 4th, loved the larks flying about his hilltop town. He and his early brothers, staying in a small hovel, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey. Francis wrote a Canticle of the Creatures, an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures."

We will celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday, October 3rd at Grace Church! Please bring your pets on leashes or in cages, especially if they are prone to wander. We also invite you to bring a friend with their pet on this special day.



AUGUST FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings:	\$ 6,829.00
Total revenue:	\$ 9,890.97
Total expenses:	\$ 10,209.22
Income-Expense:	(\$ 318.25)
Year to date deficit:	(\$ 23,272.44)
Total transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:	\$22,000.00
Total assets:	\$ 143,773.37



“Preparation” by Garnet Haase

Geese fly in formation. Black birds swarm from my oak tree. The grass grows a little slower. Deep blue skies are dotted with white fluffy clouds. Cool nights trail after warm days. Leaves change from shades of green to crimson, orange, yellow and burgundy before falling to earth to nurture the soil.

Football fills Friday nights, Saturday afternoons and all day Sunday. Thankfully I'm a football enthusiast. Too bad for those of you with no "culture." The holidays rumble through our lives with all their witches and pumpkins, pilgrims and turkeys, tinsel-covered trees, nativity scenes and endless hours of Christmas music reminding us of the preparations we need to make.

October is a month for wrapping up summer projects and preparing for winter. We close up our cottages and pull our boats from the water whether we want to or not. Winterizing our homes and yards and vehicles is a necessary part of our October frolicking. Protecting our possessions from the cold winds of winter may not be fun or easy but it saves us from more work down the road.

Preparation is important in all areas of our lives. But doing things now to avoid negative results in the future, may not be a powerful motivator when Michigan is playing Michigan State or when we want to go for a walk in the woods to delight in the bright crispy leaves floating down around us.

To get us off the couch or home from the trail, we need to envision both the positive and negative results of our preventative measures. Closing up the cottage properly may mean you don't have to share it with a roving band of raccoons. Pulling the boat out of the water may keep it from being crushed by January's ice. Putting up storm windows may save us hundreds of dollars on our heating bills.

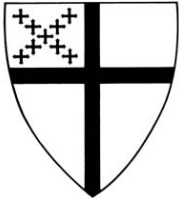
Picturing those scenarios may just be enough to catapult us out of our easy chairs. But if we can't imagine those future outcomes, then it's much harder to force ourselves to tackle those odious tasks. The same is true in our inner lives too.

If we're students and can imagine how great it feels to get A's on our report cards, then we're going to be more motivated to do all our homework, pay attention in class and study for our tests. If we can't picture those positive feelings, then we might ask, "Why bother? I'd rather play games on my computer."

If we have no image of Heaven and eternal life with our Lord, then reading the Bible, attending classes, participating in worship, loving our neighbors as ourselves may hold no importance for us. Let's use our imaginations as we live out each day and consider the outcomes we desire. Are our preparations consistent with the results we want?

Let's be prepared as much as possible for today and for eternity, so we can know God's peace now and forever.

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

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 Web site: www.gracechurchlapeer.org
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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