

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

(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

GRACEFUL TIDINGS

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2009

Columbarium Dedication



Doris Rolland
Committee Chairperson
A vision accomplished!

The Rev. Wm Boli
Priest
Dedication Ceremony



Furnishings
Framed Oil Painting
by Janie Klotzner
Artistic Wall Quilts
by Charlie Coutcher
Furniture purchased at
Beyers Furniture



We would like to acknowledge that money from Jim & Fran Nye memorial fund and The Rev. Yung Chou memorial fund were used to help cover some of the costs.

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VESTRY Meeting Highlights from November 9



Present: Judy Downey, Dick West, Eldon Card, Lauraine Ferris, Doris Stevenson, Clyde Pearsall and Nancy Wells

Guests: Lori Schmidt

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. with Nancy Wells giving opening prayer.

Old Business: Lori informed the Vestry that Jim Nye’s family have been contacted regarding the Columbarium dedication. Abea Chou was also informed. Nancy gave an update on the parish directory—they are having them printed at Office Depot. Motion made to approve funds to cover the cost of printing the directory, supported. *Approved.*

New Business: Discussion regarding stewardship drive—determined that pledge cards would be distributed in the December newsletter and date for return will be December 13th. Judy discussed the idea of pursuing a gaming license so that Grace would be able to participate in a fundraiser at Poker Palace. There are other churches in the diocese that are participating. Motion made to have Judy apply for the gaming license and follow up with dates for next year, supported. *Approved.*

Personnel: Vestry members addressed the questions submitted by the congregation and prepared for the meeting with Rev. Sue Rich to discuss part-time priest position being considered with St. John’s in Dryden. The meeting with Bishop Ousley will be held in the Church as it is better for hearing.

Finance Report: The report was approved as presented.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting with The Rev. Susan C. Rich followed the Vestry meeting. Open discussion was held regarding the concerns of the congregation, Rev. Rich and Grace Vestry. There will be a meeting on November 22nd with Bishop Ousley to further answer any questions the congregation may have.

Meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Schmidt

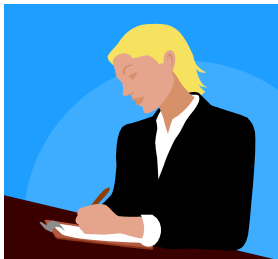
Lori Schmidt
Administrative Assistant



November 22, 2009
Meeting with
Bishop Ousley and
Rev. Sue Rich
28 parishioners attended



SENIOR WARDEN Report



On November 9, your Vestry met with Rev. Sue Rich in regards to a calling for part-time service to Grace Church. Vestry also discussed the questions submitted in regards to a new priest coming to Grace. There will be an opportunity on November 22 for the congregation to meet with Bishop Ousley and The Rev. Susan C. Rich.

The ECW Holiday Bazaar was financially successful which allows us to do outreach ministries and pay a portion of the churches operating expenses.

The events that ECW sponsors are always successful, however, it takes a lot of parishioner involvement to make it so its not “the same few doing most of the work”.

To donate baked goods, baskets, etc. is important, however we are a small church in number and need more people to help set-up, serve and clean-up at these important events. Bottom line, there was not enough wait staff or clean up crew at the bazaar. In order to host these events, we must all give more of our time and talent.

Judy Downey
Sr. Warden

What is happening at Grace...

FLOWERS AND CANDLES: It's time to start thinking about 2010 and when you would like to have flowers or a candle in honor or memory of a loved one or to observe a special occasion. Especially beginning in January—we have openings for flowers on the 3rd, 10th, 17th & 31st and opening for candles are the 17th & 31st. Call Nancy Wells 664-9793 with all requests. PLEASE do not call the office because it can cause double booking and you may miss out on the dates you would like to reserve.

Commitment Sunday is December 13th

Pledge cards are included with the newsletter. Extra cards are available in the library. 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 for being a part of our church family.



WHO AM I? What I Believe.

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

By Doris Rolland

I was born in Utica, MI and attended school there until age 16 when my family moved to Plantation, Florida. I hated moving and right away quit school and to a job as a transporter for the X-ray department of a local hospital. I worked there two years until I could earn enough to return to Michigan where I married my boyfriend. We had three children, two boys and a girl. We were together for 24 years. It didn't work out. One year after our divorce, I met Ed and married. We moved to Rochester, Michigan and when that got crowded for us we drove around in our spare time looking for a house we could afford. We landed in Lapeer. We are happily married.

Our oldest son lives in Lapeer with his wife and four children. To support them, he is heading for the military. Our daughter, Kelly, lives in Lapeer and our youngest son, Stephen is a glassblower at Greenfield Village. I am a homemaker, take care of the yard, harvest, paint, cook and do dishes. I love my perennials, just as long as they have a beautiful flower.

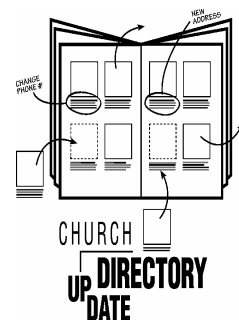
What brought us to Grace? Well, we ran into a multitude of problems and felt we needed to be closer to God. We looked for a church family. The first church we went to was Grace. We like it. My husband wanted an early service.

I believe the crisis we're going through right now will make all of us better. I believe God is watching over us and will bring us through this. Your prayers are welcome.

Sue Evans

Parish Pictorial Directory Update

The directory is a work in progress. We hope to have it completed by the end of December.



	The Second Sunday of Advent December 6 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Third Sunday of Advent December 13 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20 HOLY EUCHARIST	The First Sunday after Christmas Day December 27 HOLY EUCHARIST
Altar Guild	Sandy Arnold & Lynne Coulter			
Altar Flowers	Dick & Darlene West	Abi Warner	Della Hammond	Clyde & Nancy Pearsall
Sanctuary Candle	Dick & Darlene West	Lorraine Kelch	Bill & Lori Schmidt	Charlie Coutcher
Vestry Lockup	Clyde Pearsall			
8:00AM SERVICE				
Ushers/Greeters	Bob Coulter & Don Wells			
LEM	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells
Lector	Charlie Coutcher	Nancy Wells	Mary Kay Mason	Lori Schmidt
Acolyte	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells
Hospitality Host				
10:00AM SERVICE				
Ushers/Greeters	Cathy Webster			
LEM	Kerry Spencer	Jennie Spencer	Judy Downey	Kerry Spencer
Lector 1*	Kathy Levitt	Robert Thomas	Kerry Spencer	Sandy Arnold
Lector 2**	Jean Coon	Barb Scharping	Jennie Spencer	Craig Arnold
Acolytes	Jessica Snipes	Sean Snuske	Josh Spencer	Nicky Bagadinski
		Caryn Snuske	Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski
				Jennie Spencer
Hospitality Hosts	Steve & Maria Bagadinski	Jean Coon	Greening of Church luncheon	Sandy Chapman

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Steven Bagadinski
Verna Valley
- 3 Elva Baird
Sandra Chapman
- 4 Della Hammond
- 7 Wilda Hopkins
- 14 Lorraine Kelch
- 16 Bill Schmidt
- 17 Janie Klotzner
Aidan Spoor
- 20 Kerry Spencer
- 22 Amy Webster



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Bill & Verna Valley
Paul & Lauraine Ferris
- 30 Dave & Christina Watts

TRANSFERS IN

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL

BAPTISMS

WEDDINGS

DECEMBER 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	27
27	28	29	30	31		

Flint River Valley Convocation Highlights

The meeting opened at 9:10 a.m. with prayer from Mark 13 versus 1-8. Eleven reps were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted as corrected.

The treasurer reported receiving \$3,712.14 from the Diocese with a balance on hand of \$18,715.19 as of October 31. This gives us a large carry over.

The Dean reported that the Mission Council continues discussing the restructuring of the Diocese. He said there is no pressing crisis in any of the individual churches in our Diocese.

The President distributed the document, Vitality, Viability and Mutuality and asked us to study it. A copy will be placed on the bulletin board in the church parish hall for church members to read. This document speaks to changes which are being discussed which MAY be incorporated into proposed changes in the FRVC. The Dean emphasized that some of the discussion might shock us. But, all ideas in the document may not pertain to our individual church.

The 2010 Convocation grant requests were distributed. The Convocation concurred all were worthy. Discussion followed.

The Bishop Leidel Volunteer recipients were declared by vote. A recipient was named from St. Dunstan's, two recipients will share the award from Grace Church, Lapeer. The two awards carry a \$300.00 stipend. The recipients may name a charity which can receive the award.

Under New Business: The convocation voted \$1100 to be given to high impact start up business in low income countries. Once profitable, repayment of the loan will go into a revolving fund to start more businesses.

Updates were given by St. Paul's—Flint; Trinity-Flushing; St. Dunstan's-Davison; St. Andrew's; St. Jude's-Fenton; St. Christopher's-Grand Blanc; Grace-Lapeer and St. Paul's-Corunna.

Nancy Steele sends thanks to Lapeer for winning the stone birdfeeder at the Bazaar.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53.

Doris Rolland,
Convocation Representative

We need you! Nominations for Vestry are now being accepted...

We are accepting nominations for candidates for Vestry. Please submit a small paragraph or two for a profile to be printed in January newsletter. This is a way you can help fulfill your stewardship to the church. We need people to fill the two positions that will be open.

Fr. Boli stated that to be considered, the qualifications are to be over the age of 16 years, baptized, and worship regularly.

You have until December 15, 2009 to get your nomination to Fr. Boli; Clerk of the Vestry, Lauraine Ferris; or the office.

The Annual Meeting
will be held in January.
More details will follow.



NOMINATIONS

“Listening to God” by Garnet Haase

This will be my first Christmas as an orphan. I had no idea when I hugged and kissed on Mom last December 25th and wished her “Merry Christmas!” that it would be our final Christmas together in this world.

I didn't get to Suncrest in time to feed Mom her Christmas dinner and I needed to leave her sooner than I would have liked so I could be on time for dinner at my friends' home. Regrets. I've had more than enough during my lifetime.

Regrets drain the joy and energy from me and they have little value. There are only a couple good things about regrets. They remind me that I need to make better decisions so I can avoid new regrets and that I need forgiveness.

To make better decisions I need to open my heart and mind to messages God sends my way. Listening to God requires me to quiet the noise in my life. That may mean turning off the television or the car radio. I may have to sit still and breathe deeply and close my eyes — no, not while I'm driving. I may have to work to shut out all the thoughts and concerns bombarding me from every angle. Slowing my mind is hard for me. It's usually racing.

But once I quiet my mind, I can hear God better with my heart. At those moments, I see things more clearly. The elements of my life that appeared overwhelming minutes before suddenly don't seem so daunting and unbearable. My stomach muscles loosen. My blood pressure returns to normal. I'm able to see alternatives I hadn't considered. Hope and peace and trust in my Lord fill my heart and energize me to make decisions and take needed action.

When I follow this process, I have few regrets. But opening up to God's guidance takes conscious effort. It's way easier to just blunder into things — except for that whole having to live with the consequences stuff. Cleaning up the mess is a lot harder, more painful and time consuming than sitting for a few minutes and quieting my mind so I can hear God speaking to me though.

It's always best when I let the peace of God guide me in the decisions I make. But I get busy ripping and running, worrying and fretting and I forget to ask God for guidance or I ignore what he tells me because it means I have to make changes in my life. That's when I'm most likely to wind up dragging around a bag full of regrets and find myself in need of forgiveness yet one more time.

I'd much rather listen to God and avoid regrets and enjoy the abundant life my Lord is offering me than live with the burden of unloving and careless decisions. As Christmas approaches, I'm reminded of God's unconditional love for me, a love so great my heavenly Father sent his beloved Son into the world as a tiny baby to live and die and rise again so I might have eternal life.

Remembering God's love and mercy throughout each day helps me slow down, wind down, quiet down so I can listen up and hear God's message of peace like the shepherds heard it on that first Christmas night. Focusing on that first Christmas helps me remember my last Christmas with Mom with peace and joy filling my heart instead of regrets.

I may be an orphan but I'm not alone and neither are you. Let's be still and listen to our Lord and decide wisely, so we can delight in the abundant life God is offering us, not only at Christmas but every moment of every day. Let's join the angels in singing his praises.

Yours in Christ,
Garnet Haase



December 24, 2009

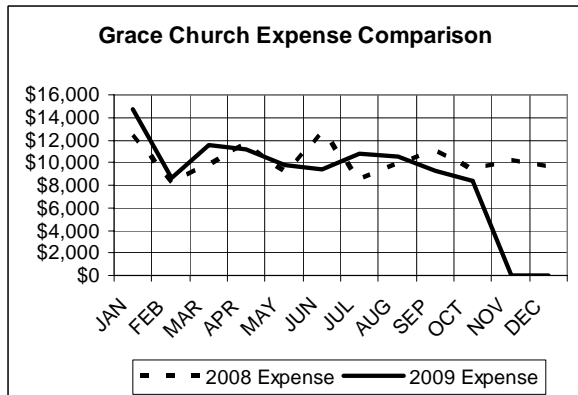
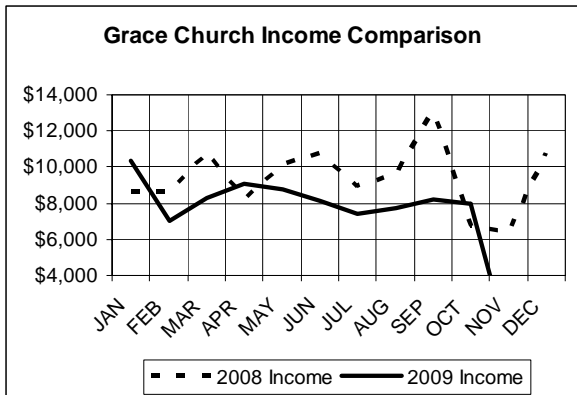
6:00 pm—Child & Family Service
 10:00 pm—Carol Sing
 11:00 pm—Christmas Eve Service

There will be no service
 on Christmas Day.



OCTOBER FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings: \$ 5,795.73
 Total revenue: \$ 7,969.83
 Total expenses: \$ 8,323.61
 Income-Expense: (\$ 353.78)
 Year to date deficit: (\$ 20,516.56)
 Total transferred from LCBT to cover deficit: \$20,000.00
 Total assets: **\$152,917.30**



ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

The bazaar was a rousing success, everyone working together made it so. Now we can rest up for a while and concentrate our efforts on the home front. There will not be an ECW meeting in December, so will look forward to seeing you at the January one when we will be planning for the silent auction, save your unwanted treasures. The date of the auction will be January 31– February 14th. So when putting away your new Christmas things—set aside items that can be used for the auction! The raffle winners were as follows: 4th place cornucopia – won by Cookie Iwinski from Peck – ticket sold by Jennie Spencer ~ 3rd place stone bird feeder – won by Rev. Nancy Steele from Chesaning – ticket sold by Joyce Moore ~ 2nd place stained glass quilt – won by Dolores Day from Flushing – ticket sold by Christina Watts ~ 1st place framed oil painting – won by Cece Stramsak from Columbiaville – ticket sold by Marge Hutton.

Thanks to all who sold and purchased tickets – honorable mention goes to the Spencer family for selling 51 tickets! With such wonderful prizes – they do sell easily.
 HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Barb Scharping
 ECW President



Poinsettia Sale

Let's decorate!
 Poinsettias will again be available for \$10 each. Call Lori at the office for more information. Delivery will be December 17, 2009

Greening of the Church

Sunday, December 20, 2009
 following the 10:00 service.
 8:00 worshippers please return and 10:00 worshippers stay for a potluck. Please bring soup, bread or cookies. After some soup and bread we'll prepare the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

Bible Wordsearch

Luke 12:16-24

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

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

ANYONE	LIFE
BARN	MERRY
BIGGER	NIGHT
BIRDS	ONES
BUILD	PARABLE
CERTAIN	PLENTY
CLOTHES	PRODUCED
CONSIDER	RAVENS
CROPS	REAP
DEMANDED	RICH
DISCIPLES	SOW
DRINK	STORES
EASY	TEAR
EAT	TELL
FEEDS	THINGS
FOOL	THOUGHT
GOD	TOLD
GOODS	VALUABLE
GRAIN	WEAR
GROUND	WORD
JESUS	WORRY
LAID	YEARS

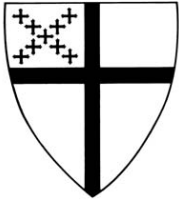
Psalm 54



Kids Corner

Make Santa's Christmas merry and bright
By helping him through this maze of lights!

© FamilyFun



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 10:00 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
 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

	Vestry	Phone	Liaison Areas
Judy Downey	Senior Warden	810-338-6200	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		
Lori Schmidt	Administrative Assistant		
Vicki McIntyre	Bookkeeper		