

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

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STAFF

Lori Schmidt, Admin. Assistant

Kathy Levitt, Custodian

Vicki McIntyre, Bookkeeper

Nick Ward, Music Director

OFFICE HOURS

Monday— 9:00a-4:00p

Tuesday-Thursday- 9:00a-1:00p

Friday—Closed

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vestry Highlights	2
Sr. Warden Report	3
Jr. Warden Report	3
Who Am I?	4
Get to know Rev. Sue	4
Service Schedule Calendar	5-6
FFF Report	7
What is Happening at Grace	7
“Led by Love” by Garnet Haase	8
ECW News	9
Finance Report	9
Flint River Valley Convocation Highlights	10
Lenten Service Schedule	11

# GRACEFUL TIDINGS

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2010

## Reflections from Rev. Sue

Dear Grace Community,

Much has been on our hearts and minds as we watch the reports of the aftermath of the earthquakes in Haiti. The outpouring from around the world is wonderful but in the midst of such generosity we are left with many questions.

How could God let this happen? How could God let this happen to the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere? Why does there have to be so much pain and suffering? Why did this happen? There are public figures who do their best to formulate answers to some of these questions. Some are helpful and some are not. It is to one such report that I am going to address.

One faithful Christian man has said very publicly that he believes the people of Haiti made a pact with the devil and that these earthquakes, with their death and destruction, are God's way of punishing them for

that pact. This individual comes from a focus on Satan and that God is one whose focus is on punishment and retribution. This is not reflective of my view of God's activity in the world.

Many of us would agree that this is a terrible, terrible thing that happened and we are greatly grieved. If we look at the God of the Hebrew Scriptures we often see the writer's view being that of: people do good and they are blessed/people do bad and they are cursed. Blessing/curse, blessing/curse, blessing/curse.

As I reflect on God's activity in the world through the Bible I see God's compassion and mercy seeking out God's people. When I reflect on God incarnate, Jesus, I see God going beyond any compassion or mercy I could have imagined to come to earth to teach, preach, heal, reconcile and redeem. The God I know and worship is a God who goes beyond all possibility to bring all to the fold.

The God of my understanding allows natural events to occur, yes, but does not plan them as retribution against a people. The God of my understanding is in the rubble with those who perished and suffered. God is the One to whom we gain our hope and strength when terrible, unimaginable things happen. God is the One who spurs our hearts to give generously of our time, talent and treasure in response to events like that of the earthquakes in Haiti.

There are some that believe that God's focus is on punishment and retribution, however, we have seen that God's focus is on compassion, mercy and grace.

In Christ's love,  
Rev. Sue

## VESTRY Meeting Highlights from January 6



**Present:** Judy Downey, Dick West, Eldon Card, Lauraine Ferris, Doris Stevenson and Nancy Wells **Excused:** Clyde Pearsall **Guests:** Lori Schmidt

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

Approval made of December 6, 2010 minutes as written.

**Convocation Report** – Copy included in report and recorded as received and filed.

**Old Business:** Kathy Levitt was hired as custodian – she will work 10 hours per week at \$10/hour, she may work additional as needed. Discussion held regarding purchase of a new vacuum. Voted on, support. *Approved.* The Lapeer County Community Foundation grant has been submitted. Discussion on Food for Families program – have been getting more help – asking other churches about numbers attending – some offer other things in conjunction with their supper, parking may be a hindrance for Grace.

Priest Letters of Agreement – Discussion held regarding salary and compensation for Rev. Sue. Motion to accept the Letter of Agreement for Wardens and Vestry of both, Grace and St. John's, Dryden, support. *Approved.* Motion to approve Letter of Agreement between Wardens and Vestry and Rev. Susan Rich with correction, supported. *Approved.* There is a concern regarding how a three month sabbatical will impact Grace– much more discussion and negotiation will be held on this since Rev. Sue will be qualified to have a sabbatical next year due to her time at St. John's. Will need to review the Ministry Description every three months and keep in line with consultant recommendations.

**New Business:** A draft of a 2010 Annual meeting agenda was presented – there will be a monetary recognition to Lorraine Kelch for her many years of dedicated service as the Thrift Shop Manager. Dick West and Eldon Card will act as tellers for the vote of Vestry members. The Vestry lock up sign up sheet was distributed, but will have to wait until after the Annual meeting to see who is returning. Snow removal provided on Sunday will be paid at \$15/hour, other wise it will be handled by Dick West, Jr. Warden. The front signage has been removed and will be corrected to include Rev. Sue and the one service time.

**Finance Report:** The budget will need to be revised to show increase of priest salary – with the early meeting date – investment financial information will not be available for review – will share with congregation in newsletter.

**Priest Comments:** Would like to organize a retreat – will discuss some dates and get back with the Vestry, looking at a Saturday from 9-3 p.m. Eldon offered Camp Lael as a site to consider – a tour of facility will be on January 26 at 9:30 a.m.

**Other:** Lauraine Ferris wants to organize a family game night – it will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 – more details to follow. Also there will be discussion in the future to develop a plan on what to do in the Parish Hall Library with the Bishop and Priest photos – possibly consider putting them in a scrapbook for safekeeping.

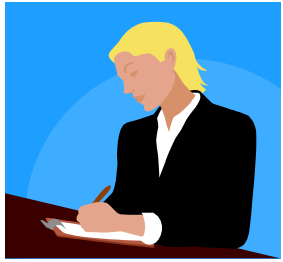
Closing prayer by Doris Stevenson—meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lori Schmidt*

Lori Schmidt, Administrative Assistant

## SENIOR WARDEN Report



Here we are one month into our new Sunday service schedule. It's very interesting having different Priests and Deacons. This will certainly keep us on our toes. So far it seems to be meshing together very well. We all seem to be adjusting and people are getting to know one another during coffee hour.

You're probably wondering about our Parish Directory. We are temporarily on hold while we wait for our visiting Priests to email pictures to us. We would like to include them so everyone can put a face with the name, and they are part of us now.

Also, I would like to thank Judy Downey for her tenure as Vestry member and Senior Warden.

Nancy Wells, Sr. Warden

## JUNIOR WARDEN Report



Kathy Levitt has agreed to take on the job of keeping our Church Offices clean. She is doing a great job. Thanks Kathy.

We need volunteers to keep the lawn mowed this summer. If anyone can do it for 1-2 weeks or a month at a time please call Lori at the office or myself at 664-8482. Joe Coon is keeping the snow removed on the week-ends and I take care of the week. We all need to work together to save money, so we can keep our church going. God Bless.

Dick West  
Jr. Warden

## Did you notice?

Alms basins are placed and left on the altar table along with the bread and wine. All these represent our offerings to God.

## WHO AM I? What I Believe.

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

By Doris Rolland

I was born in Detroit on February 24, 1927. We moved to Lapeer when I was five years old and I have lived here ever since. I graduated from Lapeer High with the idea to get married and have a family—which I did: a boy and a girl.

I worked in banking 20 years and, 15 years in business development before retiring. My hobbies are golf, reading and spending time with my two grandsons in Midland. I enjoy spending cold weather time in Florida.

The biggest changing force in my life came when my daughter broke through the ice in a car and drowned with two other women. She was twenty. Instantly, my dreams for her were shattered. I made up my mind that since my daughter didn't have the opportunity to live a full life, that I would cherish each minute of life, and never be distracted by minor irritations. My spirituality deepened, and I later went on to study to be a deacon. I now serve Grace in many capacities and look forward to coordinating the Thrift Shop. By the way, we could use help especially during the seasonal changes.

What do I believe? "I truly believe God wants Grace Church to be open to one and all at this location."

*Judy Downey*

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## Get to Know Rev. Sue...

Rev. Sue was born and raised in Cleveland Heights, Ohio and is the oldest of four children. In 1983 she graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education. After college she had several different jobs until she began teaching Phys. Ed. at St. Gregory the Great School where she taught grades K-8 for four years.

Always interested in church and the outdoors, Sue worked at summer bible camps, outdoor camps and in 1990 was part of a 10-day mission trip to Haiti. In 1998 she moved to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota where she served as a Volunteer For Mission through The Episcopal Church.

While there, she discerned a call to the priesthood and after two years moved to Austin, Texas where she attended The Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, graduating with a Master of Divinity in 2004. Rev. Sue began ordained ministry at St. John's, Dryden in September of that year.

She enjoys singing and is a member of the Lapeer County Concert Choir. While in college she played the alto saxophone in the marching band and only plays it now when she goes back for Homecoming! Rev. Sue enjoys the outdoors, gardening and quilting. Her dog, Chelsea, a black lab/border collie mix has been her companion since she first moved to the reservation. Chelsea's eleven.

	<b>The Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany February 7 HOLY EUCHARIST</b>	<b>The Last Sunday After the Epiphany February 14 HOLY EUCHARIST</b>	<b>The First Sunday in Lent February 21 HOLY EUCHARIST</b>	<b>The Second Sunday in Lent February 28 HOLY EUCHARIST</b>
Clergy Serving	The Rev. Russ Merrill	The Rev. Sue Rich	The Rev. Sarah Parks	The Rev. Sue Rich
Altar Guild	Sandra Chapman & Jean Coon			
Altar Flowers	Ted & Harriet Burder	Lorraine Kelch	<b>LENT</b>	<b>LENT</b>
Sanctuary Candle	Clyde & Nancy Pearsall	Clyde & Nancy Pearsall	Harold & Virginia Cook	Charlie Coucher
Vestry Lockup	Nancy Wells			
<b>9:00 SERVICE</b>				
Ushers/Greeters	Dick & Darlene West			
LEM	Jennie Spencer	Nancy Wells	Jennie Spencer	Kerry Spencer
Lector 1*	Judy Downey	Robert Thomas	Craig Arnold	Barb Scharping
Lector 2**	Jean Coon	Nancy Wells	Sandy Arnold	Mary Kay Mason
Acolytes	Jessica Snipes	Jennie Spencer	Josh Spencer	Nicky Bagadinski
	Devin House		Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski
	Hayden House			Jennie Spencer
Hospitality Hosts		Dick & Darlene West	Jack/Marge Hutton and Bob/Lynne Coulter	

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 7 Taryn Marino
- 13 Margery Hutton
- 15 Virginia Cook
- 21 Morna Glancy  
Midge Baker
- 22 Harold Cook  
David Coon
- 24 Judy Downey
- 25 Nancy Pearsall



**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 4 Mike & Peg Supernault
- 14 Ted & Harriet Burder
- 15 Clyde & Nancy Pearsall

**TRANSFERS IN**

**FUNERAL/MEMORIAL**

**BAPTISMS**

**WEDDINGS**



# FEBRUARY 2010

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
	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						

# Food for Families Report– Dutch & Janie Klotzner

Recently we discovered that there had been regular articles in the monthly newsletter from this program and not wanting any of you to be in the dark about our activities we'll attempt to keep you all informed on a more regular basis. Our menus so far this year have consisted of Turkey Tetrizzini, summer squash (fresh picked and frozen last summer), carrot salad and home made cookies for dessert, the next week we offered Swiss Steak with mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, a tossed salad and various cakes, pies and cookies (left over from the annual meeting). The following week we had a sweet and sour chicken loaded with fresh vegetables and served on rice with an oriental salad, an angel food cake with whipped topping for dessert. To end the month we had Sloppy Joes, butter beans, tossed salad and brownies for dessert. Each of these meals are carefully prepared by our very dedicated early morning crew and served, in the afternoon, by many of our very own special parishioners. Stop by, for a cup of coffee, and see us in action any Tuesday morning from around 7:30 a.m. until we're finished with the preparations and in the afternoon we serve our meal beginning at 4:00 p.m. We have served 366 meals so far this month. We also sent 39 meals to LACADA.

We'd especially like to thank the "egg lady" for the very generous donation of many dozens of eggs which were put to good use. (We had to really work hard to find good recipes for that many eggs). We also wish to thank a very generous donor for a front quarter of beef. We'll be having something special out of that real soon.

## What is happening at Grace...



### Game Night Planned...

Come, bring your friends, and join us for dinner and game night on Saturday, February 27 at 6 o'clock. The sign up sheet is in the parish hall so we can have an approximate number to plan on. Dinner (with donation basket) by the Parish Life Committee will be sloppy joes, tater tots, cole slaw, and cookie. Following dinner will be games, prizes, and fun for all. Hope to see you there!

## Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall Scrapbooking Daze



**April 23-24, 2010**

**Limited Space ~ watch for more details!**

## “Led by Love” by Garnet Haase

Soon it will be Groundhog Day and I'll be reminded of what it means to be scared of my own shadow. Who could blame the poor groundhog for dashing back into his hole when he pops his head out and sees a crowd of people with cameras and lights and covered with all those nasty human smells?

We'd be frightened too, even if we didn't see our shadows. Our lives are filled with uncertainties and threats. We live every day on the brink of possible disaster. It's a wonder we're willing to roll out of bed.

Still, we get up and brush our teeth, hopefully. We throw on clothes and head off for work or school or doctor appointments or the grocery store or the bowling alley or the childcare center. We usually do what we have to do — no matter how scared we are — motivated by either love or fear or a combination of the two. We go to work out of love for those who depend on us or because we fear being homeless and hungry.

Fear and love are powerful forces in our lives. Peace and contentment come from doing things out of love. Anxiety and headaches are by-products of being motivated by fear. For instance, some people exercise because they enjoy how they feel, physically and emotionally when they're active. Others will only exercise and watch their diets after they've had a heart attack or been diagnosed with diabetes.

Some people are thoughtful and considerate to their spouses out of love and they take delight in caring for them. Others focus on their own wants and desires and show little interest in the needs of their spouses, until they're threatened with a trip to divorce court.

God doesn't want us living in fear. He wants us experiencing his love in our lives and sharing his love with others. God wishes we'd come to him out of love and a desire to be with him for all eternity. But even if we attend worship and show kindness in the hope of avoiding eternal death, God is still glad we're looking to him at all. When we grow in faith we move from fear to love. Instead of living by a long list of "Don'ts and dos," we're motivated by our desire gratefully to respond to God's love and mercy.

As we enter February, let's ask ourselves if we're being led by love or driven by fear? Are we afraid of our own shadows or are we trusting in our Lord's protection and guidance? Would we rather feel peaceful or anxious? Are we going to dive back into our holes or take delight in the Son's light? May God's peace help us with the decisions we make.

Yours In Christ,  
Garnet Haase

# ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

The January meeting was taken up trying to get the 2010 budget approved, as always there are more places that need money than we have resources for. As you may know our major revenue generators are: the silent auction (going on right now!), the Spring Fashion Show, Egg Roll sales and the Christmas Bazaar. We are always looking for new projects. Pat Schneider suggested a day of scrapbooking, so you will be seeing flyers advertising this event for April, if you or anyone you know is into this craft, spread the news. The silent auction is up and running in the parish hall and awaiting your bids.

Now that we are all together at one service, I hope we will see more ladies at our meetings which are held on the second Sunday of each month. It is a very casual get together, so bring your coffee and join us.

Barb Scharping  
ECW President

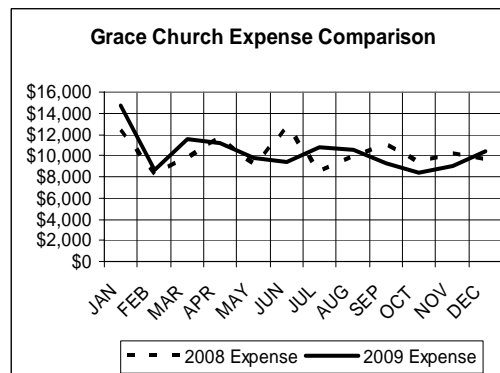
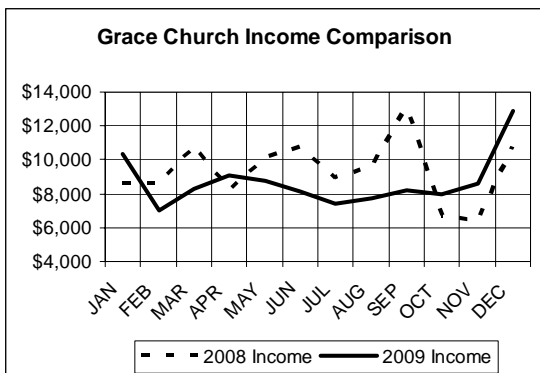


Beginning April 1, when a name has been on the Prayer List for thirty days it will be removed. Many times we forget to remove our friends or loved ones when they recover. Please call the office and let Lori know if you would like to have someone remain on the list.



## DECEMBER FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings:	\$ 5,544.43
Total revenue:	\$ 12,875.09
Total expenses:	\$ 10,416.26
Income-Expense:	\$ 2,458.83
Year to date deficit:	(\$ 18,421.27)
Total transferred from LCBT to cover deficit:	\$20,000.00
Total assets:	<b>\$ 116,387.03</b>
Total designated:	\$ 33,167.97



## Flint River Valley Convocation Highlights

President Dean Bedford opened the meeting at 9:06 a.m. Bible study centered on Luke 1:4 & 14 plus: God's purposes.

The agenda was approved.

Minutes for November and December were distributed and approved as corrected.

The Treasurer's report was distributed. We anticipate 2010 will be sufficient, but not 2011. Half the churches have given more than what they promised. The convocation thanks all.

Having had no meeting of the standing committee, or Mission Council, neither the president or Dean had reports. Clericus will meet next Wednesday.

There was no old business.

Under new business, each church is asked to E-mail Marty at St. Paul's, Flint their calendar of events for 2010 in order that convocation and the Diocese may build their calendar in consideration of the churches. An E-mail from Marcia Berg, Christ Enrichment Center is showing how the numbers of needy have doubled the last few months. It was reported Jon Steele is recuperating from surgery. Tom Downs, communication officer has retired but is still doing the weekly bulletin distributed on Sundays. Bishop Ousley was highly praised for his contribution in the Coppage School. Sixteen participated. There is a 50% scholarship fee paid for all participants. Enrollment is \$2200/year. The semester runs August-January; and February-June, one weekend out of the month—4:00 p.m. Friday to 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Participation is highly recommended. One can enroll simply for their own spiritual growth. More cooperation between the parishes is encouraged as we move toward regional missionaries. Dean encouraged everyone to be counted in the census.

Proposals are being sought for convocational events four times a year. Tentative dates are: \*Thurs. April 15th 6:30 supper, 7:15 at St. Paul's, Flint. Topic: Church leadership. \*May 16th, Sunday afternoon 4:00 p.m. perhaps Owosso—Agape Meal Communion on the Commons. \*An educational meeting the 3rd week in October in connection with Convention. Topic TBA. \*Nov 4th a 6:30 p.m. dinner in the evening, St. Paul's, Flint; 7:15 p.m. program.

Parish updates were given. The meeting closed with the Lord's prayer at 11:40 a.m.

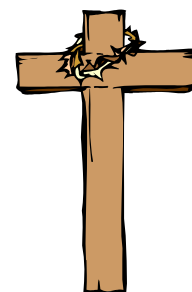
Doris Rolland  
Convocation Representative



Rev. Sue will be conducting two services on February 17, 2010 for Ash Wednesday. She will be at Grace Church, Lapeer at 12:15 p.m. and at St. John's, Dryden at 7:00 p.m. Also, Christ the King Lutheran has extended an invitation to us to attend their 7:00 p.m. service with them and First Presbyterian church members. There will not be a soup supper prior to the service.

# “Faces of the Cross”

Ecumenical Lenten Dinner & Teaching Series



Ash Wednesday– 12:15 p.m. Grace, Lapeer  
 7:00 p.m. St. John’s, Dryden  
 Christ the King Lutheran

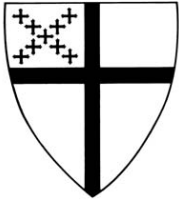
February 24	Immaculate Conception 814 W. Nepessing St.	Pastor Todd Smith
March 3	Grace Episcopal 735 W. Nepessing St.	Pastor Nik Schillack
March 10	First Presbyterian 433 N. Calhoun	Deacon Colleen Dewey
March 17	Christ the King Lutheran 1175 S. Lapeer Rd.	Rev. Sue Rich
March 24	St. Matthew’s 1009 N. Saginaw St.	Fr. Aaron DePeyster

6:00pm Soup & Bread Supper  
 7:00pm Worship & Teaching  
 8:00pm Closing



Once again this Lent, on Wednesday evenings, we will experience the Lenten journey to the cross with other congregations in the Lapeer area. For each service, we will gather at the host congregation for soup and bread, then worship. The host congregation will prepare the meal, a guest pastor will preach, and the worship time will end around 8:00 p.m. Feel free to invite family and friends to join with us in this Lenten experience.

A sign up sheet is in the Parish Hall if you are able to bring in soup or bread. Parish Life Committee will coordinate the set-up and clean-up.  
**Bless them all!**



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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Web site: [www.gracechurchlapeer.org](http://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. 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
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
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. Russ Merrill	St. Paul's
Vicki McIntyre	Bookkeeper	Rev. Nancy Steele	Owosso