

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 in Residence

(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

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GRACEFUL TIDINGS

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2009

Congregation Gathers June 14th to Chart A Way Forward.

Grace Church's Vestry has been hard at work during the past year. We have been working to plan for our future. At our May 17th Congregational Meeting and Potluck lunch, our Vestry reported out its findings. We spoke about insights gained by looking closely at our strengths and weaknesses, examining why others in Lapeer participate in their churches and telling the story of our clergy leadership. The report was greeted with high interest and lots of conversation. We discussed, in depth, central issues of concern which, when addressed, can become sources of energy and health.

This month we will gather for our second and last congregation potluck/discussion. Our work will be to envision specific actions that Grace Church can do to address the central issues your Vestry reported to you at our May 17th meeting. The core of

our work will be looking for signs of transformation. What possibilities lie under our noses in what we have thought of as liabilities? We will ask “how can these become assets?” In other words, what in the life of Grace Church has potential energizing and health giving effects? Using our insights, we will identify “baby steps,” small things we can do that build trust around our concerns.

I like to think of this stage in the process as panning for gold. While tons of earth pass through the waters of a gold bearing stream, with the panner's art, nuggets of pure gold appear and are gathered together. That is the sort of process we will undertake together, to build a plan to gather the wealth of Grace Church's “hidden” assets. The process holds great promise for us all. I hope you will with us as we plan these first steps into Grace's future.



*The Rev. Mark Engle,
Consultant*

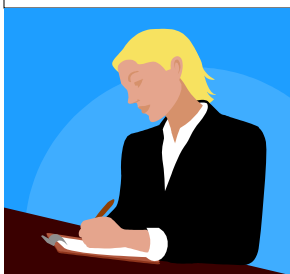


VESTRY Meeting Highlights from May 13



The Parish meeting was held in lieu of the Vestry meeting. The next scheduled meeting will be held on June 10th at 6:30 p.m.

SENIOR WARDEN Report



This past month was a busy one in the life of the church. Easter Services, confirmation classes, convocation gathering, seminar for vestry members, parish meeting with The Rev. Mark Engle and the chocolate festival. These were all important venues for working together to build a stronger parish family. Discussions were held on how we think and react to situations, missions and goals for the church. I especially enjoyed learning the importance in touching “such as exchanging the peace”, playing together (such as our bowling league) and nurturing as in phoning the sick or elderly, stopping to visit or furnish a ride.

I stopped at the church on Monday the 18th, Bill Schmidt and Leo Hitt was installing the niches in the columbarium. This room will reflect the presence of God I am sure. Doris Rolland, chairwoman of the committee showed me pictures of the lovely wingback chairs that will be set in the room for family or friends of those who have died.

The chocolate festival was great success. Special thanks to Joyce Moore who gave ECW the idea and to all of you who did so much work. Believe me, your Sr. Warden would rather be setting up or cleaning tables than hobbling around on bad knees. Next year I hope to be in as good physical shape as Della Hammond, who has had both knees replaced.

Judy Downey
Sr. Warden

WHO AM I? What I Believe.

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

By Doris Rolland

My parents being in the navy, I was born in Portsmouth, Virginia. I have one older brother. In the 9th grade, we moved to North Branch, Michigan. After graduation from North Branch High School, I enrolled in Saginaw Valley University where I played soccer for a year. I transferred to Mott College and in 2006 earned an associate degree in applied science. Since 2003 I've been a soccer and/or wrestling coach at North Branch. Needless to say, I like sports. Going on, I recently graduated from Mott finishing up my last internship at Marlette Hospital in physical therapy. So, now I am on the verge of launching my career. I look forward to one day settling down with a family.

What I believe? I consider myself an ethical person. I believe I have built my life off my faith, my family, my friends and the community that surrounds me. I hope to one day achieve a doctorate in physical therapy. If all goes well, I hope to be a grandfather some day!

Josh Spencer

Flint River Valley Convocation Report

Seven churches were represented by eleven delegates.

Opening prayer was based on humility. Texts included Proverbs 29; Roman's 12:16; Isaiah 2:11; 1 Peter 5:5; Galatians 5:26 and James 4:10.

The treasurer reported the Convocation needs about \$1600.00 a month to meet its obligations. So far, it is averaging about \$2000.00 a month. So far, so good.

Dean Bedford, reported the standing committee is working on a resolution to form a canonical committee before which a church unable to meet its financial obligation could request a variance. It was learned that several churches in our convocation do not have a budgeting process and simply pay bills from their checking account.

New Business: Grants are being determined more closely and should not be frivolous.

Each church then reviewed their activities. It was noted that St. Paul's in Corunna just received shipment of their second section of the Columbarium not yet unwrapped. It is the same pattern Grace selected, only 4 high, ours is 5.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's prayer at 11:30.

Doris Rolland, Delegate

“Roamer” by Garnet Haase

Wind is tickling the treetops and making them squirm with delight. Ripples race across the pond. “Clang, ding, bing, dong,” sings the wind chime. Turkeys are preening peacefully in the late-morning sun ... or at least they were until I had to go outside to herd a baby groundhog.

Looking out a west window I saw my six “piglets” grazing on dandelion stalks that popped back up after the last mowing. While I was watching, Greta the mama groundhog came trotting towards her brood, her tail held high and twitching. She sniffed at, and then plopped on the first baby, got up, and let the baby sniff her tail. The two of them waddled to the next baby and the sniffing and rubbing ensued.

Eventually, three more piglets ran to be with their mommy, rubbed noses, climbed on her and nestled against her. But there was still one baby that kept eating and walking further and further from the house. Greta kept looking at it and went in its general direction but she didn’t want to take her passel of babies any closer to the road. Roamer looked up from her eating at one point and saw her family heading southwest around the pond but still didn’t bother to follow.

That naughty little groundhog just kept eating and roaming and occasionally looking in the direction of the road. She was still a good fifty feet from the road but I didn’t want her anywhere near it. In the meantime, Greta had reached the south side of the pond and had disappeared into the woods with her brood. Roamer continued to gnaw at the tender stalks.

Now, I didn’t want the little critter separated from her family. So, I went outside, got between the piglet and the road, and walked towards the furry thing. I expected her to turn tail and run away from me ... most *people* do. But no. Roamer fluffed herself up, faced me, made a chattering sound with her teeth and ran straight at me. In fact, she ran right between my legs as I did my baby groundhog dance.

After that, the feisty little fur ball ran back under the bushes in the direction of her palatial digs. As we speak, Roamer is safely feasting on the bird seed I toss off the deck for the turkeys and bunnies, and well, groundhogs. I’m guessing groundhogs are pack animals, at least when they’re little, so I reckon Roamer is kinda wondering where everyone is.

Wait until everyone gets back from their fieldtrip and starts telling her all their exciting stories. By wandering off, Roamer is missing out on the protection and fun of being with the group and the lessons Greta is teaching the rest of her babies. Plus, one little groundhog out in the middle of the yard would be easy pickings for one of the hawks that circle my yard and the neighboring woods or for my neighbor’s prowling cat.

I just went to check on Roamer. She was sitting in the sun near the bird seed, not even eating, just ducking when birds flew too close. Poor little thing looked pretty forlorn. But all of a sudden, Greta came galloping out of the woods and circled the east end of the pond on her way to the house. She must have headed into east end of her burrow in search of her lost baby because neither Roamer nor I saw her for a couple of minutes.

Eventually, Roamer stood up and looked toward the west entrance to their home and darted off in that direction. By the time I saw them, they went out in the yard and Greta was busy picking her wayward piglet up by her bottom and hanging her upside down. After she dropped Roamer, they nuzzled each other. When Greta sat up on her haunches, Roamer did the same, with her front paw on Greta’s back. She was staying close this time.

Apparently in a hurry to get back to her other babies, Greta snatched Roamer up by the seat of her piglet pants and carried her unceremoniously back around the pond and into the woods, where I imagine there was a joyful reunion.

“Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.” (Matthew 18:10-14)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who searches for each of us when *we* wander off, like Greta hunted for her lost baby. Our Lord is very maternal. He wants us safe with him. He wants us comforted by his presence in our lives. Each of us is important and special to God. Like Roamer, we might get disciplined so we can learn, but we also get carried home where there will be rejoicing. Thanks be to God!

Yours In Christ,
Garnet Haase

	The First Sunday after Pentecost June 7 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Second Sunday after Pentecost June 14 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Third Sunday after Pentecost June 21 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 28 HOLY EUCHARIST
Altar Guild	Sandra Chapman & Jean Coon			
Altar Flowers	Craig & Sandy Arnold	Harold & Virginia Cook	Burns & Doris Rolland	Dutch & Janie Klotzner
Sanctuary Candle	Charlie Coutcher	Wilda Hopkins	Don & Nancy Wells	Dutch & Janie Klotzner
Vestry Lockup	Judy Downey			
8:00AM SERVICE				
Ushers/Greeters	Bob Coulter & Jack Hutton			
LEM	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells
Lector	Charlie Coutcher	Nancy Wells	Mary Kay Mason	Tracey House
Acolyte	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells	Eldon Card	Nancy Wells
Hospitality Host				
10:00AM SERVICE				
Ushers/Greeters	Harold & Virginia Cook			
LEM	Jennie Spencer	Wilda Hopkins	Jennie Spencer	Kerry Spencer
Lector 1*	Jean Coon	Bob Thomas	Kerry Spencer	Craig Arnold
Lector 2**	Nancy Pearsall	Wilda Hopkins	Barb Scharping	Sandy Arnold
Acolytes	Jessica Snipes	Sean Snuske	Josh Spencer	Nicky Bagadinski
		Caryn Snuske	Amy Webster	Steve Bagadinski
				Jennie Spencer
Hospitality Hosts		Steve & Maria Bagadinski		Dutch & Janie Klotzner

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Dorothy Longendyke
- 4 Miranda Snipes
- 7 Hayden House
- 8 Josh Spencer
- 12 Mike Snipes
- 15 Joe Coon
- 17 Dennis DeLeonard
Bob Beveridge
- 23 Bob Coulter
- 24 Paul Ferris
- 28 Garnet Haase



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Harold & Judy Chown
- 15 Harold & Virginia Cook
- 19 Dave & Jean Coon
- 27 Burns & Doris Rolland
Bruce & Barb Scharping
Dutch & Janie Klotzner



TRANSFERS IN

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL
5/08 Paul Allison Sr.

**BAPTISMS/
CONFIRMATIONS**

- 5/31 Allen Dunn
Leilani Eastman
Tracey House
Patricia Schneider
Julie Tocco
Richard West

WEDDINGS

JUNE 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	26	27	28	29	30
31						

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News...

The ECW Fashion Show and Chocolate Festival was a sweet success thanks to all the ladies and men who sold tickets, backed goodies, shopped for supplies, served and cleaned. Most thanks to the 96 who bought tickets. Della will have the final figures (but have a preliminary net profit of \$650.00) at the next ECW meeting which will be a week earlier than usual due to the second Parish meeting with The Rev. Mark Engle on the 14th.

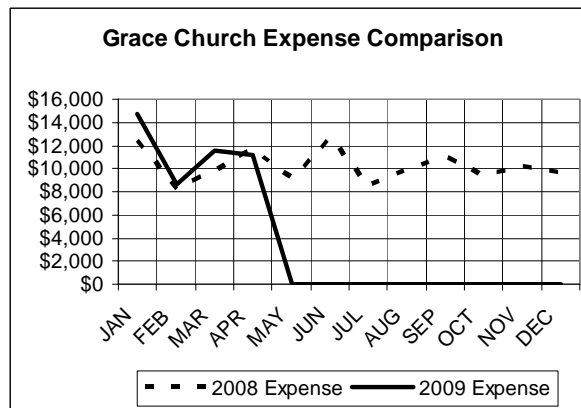
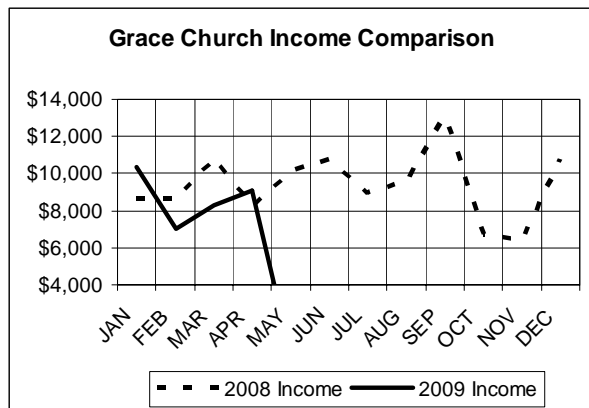
It is with mixed emotions we say good-bye to Dennis and Lesley DeLeonard. We are glad Dennis has work in Indiana and that they were able to sell their house, but sad to be losing them. Dennis was a great egg roll fryer and Lesley kept the soup kitchen going. They were always ready to do whatever needed to be done and great company to be around. Our best wishes and prayers for a wonderful life in Podunk Nowhere.

Barb Scharping
E.C.W. President



APRIL FINANCIALS

Pledge offerings: \$ 6,931.23
 Total revenue: \$ 9,085.13
 Total expenses: \$ 11,113.92
 Income-Expense: (\$ 2,028.79)
 Year to date deficit: (\$ 10,778.82)
 Total transferred from LCBT to cover deficit: \$10,000.00
 Total assets: **\$164,499.56**



Notes on Convocation gathering May 7th

Led by The Rt. Rev. S. Todd Ousley and The Rev. Martin Fields, priest at St. Paul's Flint and convocation Dean, representatives of the various churches in the Flint River Valley convocation met at St. Jude's in Fenton the evening of May 7th. Attending from Grace were Fr. Boli, Judy Downey, Lori Schmidt and Doris Rolland.

The purpose of the gathering was to focus on and renew the connection of faith and purpose. Participants were asked to identify passions found within individuals of the congregations and identify unmet needs in the community and THEN to connect them. By doing so, priority goals to make our church more relevant in today's world could be determined. A tool called ASSET MAPPING was used to identify where points of church strengths and community needs meet. Questions such as "What is our congregation's call" and "What do we want our congregation to be known as in the community" were asked. To answer these questions, it is a given that we must know who we are, and who the com-

munity is. So, the second set of handouts, designed for each church was distributed. Information in these handouts was studied by individual groups. At Grace, we studied our giving trends from 1997 to 2007 looking at the number of baptized members compared to worship attendance, compared to plate/pledge. The last three years, our plate/pledge is on the rise per capita but more is needed to meet expenditures. And baptisms are holding steady.

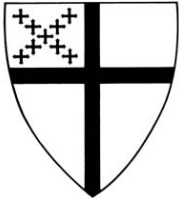
More demographics were studied involving Lapeer County. Some of the things we learned were:

1. About 34% of Lapeer not involved in traditional Christian worship – 34% are. This is high as compared to national average.
2. Lapeer & national avg. are the same for giving 31% of the families give more than \$500/yr.
3. Half of Lapeer families prefer traditional style of worship – half contemporary.
4. Most popular church programs are recreational at 37% - next is spiritual at 24%.
5. 81% of households express a religious preference – 15% no preference.

6. 62% are married – 22% single – 16% divorced.
7. Educational level is very low compared to national avg. – 16% less than high school diploma; 39% high school graduate; and 9% college.
8. Under household concerns: Basics 24%; hopes & dreams, 31%; spiritual concerns 15%.
9. Main community stress level concerns the basics at 24%.
10. Resistance to change, about avg. in the nation: 38% - population is getting older with greater resistance to change.
11. Minorities are increasing in number in Lapeer but diversity in only about 5%.

Much more info was shared, and a delicious meal was served.

Doris Rolland



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
735 WEST NEPESSING
LAPEER MICHIGAN 48446

Faithful people of Christ growing and serving through God's Grace

Change Service Requested

Grace Episcopal Church of Lapeer

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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-in-Residence

	Vestry	Phone	Liaison Areas
Judy Downey	Senior Warden	810-338-1161	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		
Paul Allison	Sexton		
Lori Schmidt	Administrative Assistant		
Vicki McIntyre	Bookkeeper		