

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School

Nursery available during service.

CLERGY

The Rev. Susan C. Rich, Priest

revsuerich@gmail.com

Cell: 810-706-0654

PH: 810-664-2841

EM: gracechurchlapeer@sbcglobal.net

STAFF

Lori Schmidt, Admin. Assistant

Kathy Levitt, Custodian

Nick Ward, Music Director

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday- 9:00a-1:00p

Friday—Closed

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Graceful Tidings

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2015

Reflections from Rev. Sue

Dear Grace Community,

The 78th General Convention (GC) of The Episcopal Church took place in Salt Lake City, Utah from June 23 through July 3 during which many significant issues and events were addressed. The General Convention is the governing body of The Episcopal Church that meets every three years. The work at GC is carried out by deputies and bishops representing each diocese.

The following is taken from a handout provided at the Post-#GC78 Meeting which highlights some of the major issues and events of the convention. The italicized items are the numbers and names of specific resolutions that can be accessed at www.generalconvention.org.

Election of a new presiding bishop (this occurs every third GC or every nine years): The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry of North Carolina was elected on the first ballot. (History was made twice in that it was the first time an African-American was elected presiding bishop and it was the first time a presiding bishop was elected on the first ballot. In 2006, Katharine Jefferts Schori became the first woman ever elected presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church. She was also the first female among the primates, or ordained leaders, of the Anglican Communion’s 38 provinces, a distinction she still holds.)

Marriage Equality: Eliminated gendered language in the canons and authorized two new marriage rites to be used by same-sex or opposite-sex couples. *A036 Eliminating gendered language. A054 Authorizing new marriage rites.*

Racial Reconciliation: Major \$2 million investment. *C019 Racial Reconciliation.*

Plans to Revise the Hymnal and Prayer Book: In 2018, the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music will present plans to revise both texts. *A169 Establish a Process for the Revision of the Book of Common Prayer 1979. D060 Establish a Process for the Revision of the Hymnal 1982.*

Alcohol & Other Addictions: *D014 Question Ordinands About Alcohol. A159 Acknowledge Church's Role in Culture of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. A158 Create a Taskforce to Review Policy on Substance Abuse.*

Curbing Gun Violence: In addition to resolutions calling for background checks and licensing - bishops, deputies, and others totaling 2,000 people participated in a march against gun violence through the streets of Salt Lake City. *B008 Handgun Purchaser Licensing. C005 Decreasing Gun Violence.*

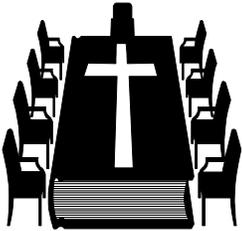
Evangelism: Building on our new presiding bishop's call to GO!, the Convention passed several resolutions calling for greater evangelism efforts. *B009 Digital Evangelism. D005 Creating a Capacity to Plant Churches.*

Climate & Environment: Resolutions calling for greater stewardship of creation. *A030 Create Climate Change Advisory Council. C013/C045 Dialogue on Climate Change and Divestment from Fossil Fuels.*

Congregational Vitality: Resolutions designed to support new congregational ministry and strengthen existing ones. *A012 Fund Mission Enterprise Zones. A044 Access to Communion in Small Churches. D009/D072 Revitalization of Congregations.*

Youth Ministry: In addition to the presence and benefit of the Official Youth Presence, the Convention passed a number of resolutions funding formation for youth. *D040 Create Youth Anti-Racism Curricula. A112 Budget Support/Expand YASC and EVIM.*

Continued on page 2



Vestry Meeting Highlights July 8

The Vestry meeting began at 5:40pm with an opening prayer by Garnet Haase. The Vestry shared their closest moments to Christ. Both the Minutes of May's meeting, with changes to members and financial report were approved.

Harold Schneider reported a final update on the June 26th Tiger baseball trip. A great time was had by all who went. A total of \$205.00 was made for the fundraiser. The Vestry discussed the ECW purchasing a new banner for the downtown Lapeer Days booth. Vestry also passed a motion for Harold's Nomination for Ordination process and completed necessary paperwork.

Thank you to all who attended the Church picnic on Sunday, July 26th. As always, there was wonderful food for the potluck and great conversations while eating. A big THANK YOU to Harold for "BBQing" those delicious hot dogs!

Vestry discussed the July Poker night at Legends. The fundraiser made \$1501.00 (before taking out the cost of our license). The Vestry passed a motion to accept the Diocesan Letter of Commitment for 2016.

Finally, Bob presented a request to convert \$50,000 of the Townsend Fund to cash (due to declining Stock Market and in an effort to retain principle in the account). This money will remain in the fund as cash. The Vestry passed a motion, unanimously, for the chairman of the investment committee to liquate the amount.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm with a closing prayer by Nancy Wells.

Next Vestry meeting is August 12th beginning at 5:30pm. Guests are always welcome.

Blessings,
Mary Kay Mason
Clerk of the Vestry

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Other Social Justice:

- A047 Provide resources and training to those ministering to combat veterans living with PTSD and other chronic conditions.*
- A053/B003 Relationship with Cuba.*
- A062 Address Christian Anti-Judaism.*
- D0025 Abolish the Death Penalty.*
- D033 Supporting Refugee Rights in Central America.*

Other resources include:

- The Diocese of Eastern Michigan www.eastmich.org and click "78th General Convention" on the right.
- The House of Deputies News www.deputynews.org.
- The Episcopal News Service www.episcopaldigitalnetwork.org/ens.
- The Episcopal Café www.episcopalcafe.org.

This particular GC was different than any others I've attended or followed. There was a spirit of grace, love, respect and care for one another that exuded even through social media and has not been present in this way other years. God continues to live and move and have being within God's Church and we are privileged to be a part of this exciting time.

I highly recommend and encourage you to view the Presiding Bishop-elect's sermon at the closing Holy Eucharist of GC. It is exciting, powerful, uplifting and can be found at The Episcopal News Service webpage dated 07/03/2015.

May our hearts be open to Presiding Bishop-elect Michael's sermon message to GO! and spread the good news of salvation through Christ to all the world so that we, and the world, will be forever changed!

In Christ's love,
Rev. Sue



SENIOR WARDEN Report

I am overwhelmed and extremely grateful for the support and love that the people and vestry of Grace Church has shown on my decision to attend Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry. The following is my response to the vestry's nomination.

I am writing this letter with a humble spirit and heart, to accept your nomination for Ordination. With God's help, I will strive to live up to your expectations and those of the generous congregation of Grace Church. In God's Love, Harold.

I can't thank God and the people of Grace enough.

God presented us with a beautiful day and the church picnic was filled with great food and wonderful company. We even had water balloons. Thanks to all that prepared the food and brought games and an appetite.

This month has two of our main fund raisers. On August 5, 6, 7, and 8, we will be at the Legends Poker Room and we follow that up with Eggrolls and Lapeer Days. Call all of your friends and relatives to assist in rolling those tasty eggrolls.

Extreme thanks to Tanna Sherrill for accepting a vacant seat on the vestry. We look forward to working with Tanna and doing God's business for Grace Church.

As always I invite any member to visit a vestry meeting. It would be a pleasure to have members of our congregation at a meeting held on the second Wednesday at 5:30 pm.

In God's love,

Harold Schneider

Thank you Nancy Steele and Welcome Barbara Cavin ~ Several weeks ago the Rev. Nancy Steele accepted a full-time interim position at an ELCA church in Saginaw. We are grateful for her years of service among us. We are happy to welcome the Rev. Barb Cavin to our clergy rotation. Barb is the retired priest-in-charge of St. Paul's, Flint and will be joining us most first Sundays of the month.

DOLLARS SENSE	JUNE FINANCIALS	
	2015	2014
Pledge & Loose Offerings	\$ 5,259.00	\$ 5,239.00
Total Monthly Revenue	\$ 7,655.43	8,528.77
Total Monthly Expenses	<u>\$10,985.91</u>	<u>9,532.19</u>
Monthly Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(3,330.48)	\$ (1,003.42)
Cash & Equivalent	\$31,900.32	\$63,060.39

*If anyone has any questions, please contact the Treasurer, Robert W. Thomas, at 810-664-7555 (office) or 810-441-7225 (mobile). **Bob Thomas***



Food for Families Report

This month we have served 356 meals. Our guests have dined on spaghetti, barbequed polish sausage, shredded barbequed beef sandwiches, and ham and macaroni salad.

We love to receive donations but if you are leaving something in the fridge or freezer for Food for Families to use please put a note on it or tell me so I know it is something for us to use. If I do not know where something came from I do not use it as I do not know who it belongs to.

Thank you for the leftovers from the church picnic and Harold Schneider brought a donation from Elba Corners Catering.

Lauraine Ferris

E.C.W. (Episcopal Church Women) News...



The ECW of Grace met on Sunday, July 12, 2015. In our meeting, both the minutes and financial reports were approved.

The ECW discussed Yard Sale Wrap-Up, discussed the final layout for the downtown Egg Roll booth banner, and Egg Rolls. Yes, it's upon us again...Egg Rolls. Jennie Spencer reviewed the timeline for Egg Rolls. We also discussed participating again in the parade for Lapeer Days. The group decided to once again be a part of this Lapeer Days event. As always, we will be handing out water bottles with Grace information on them this year. Sign-up sheets are in posted in the Parish Hall. Help is always needed for our biggest Grace/ECW fundraiser. Don't forget to sign up!

Blessings,
Mary Kay Mason

Thank You for Your Generosity

Last month we put out a plea to support Harold Schneider with his \$3,600 expenses toward attending the Academy for Vocational Leadership as he begins his discernment and training to become an Episcopal priest. This covers his portion of the school as well as books and travel for the year. Through your generosity the **full amount** was collected within a matter of weeks!!!



Church Picnic A Success!

Thank you to the vestry for putting on the church picnic last Sunday and for all who joined in eating, fellowship and a few games. Fun was had by all!



Rebuild The Churches

The "Rebuild the Churches Fund" program is a response to Larson that has destroyed black places of worship in a number of cities in the American South.

Grace Church collected the loose offering from **Sunday, July 26th** to support this program. We were able to send in over \$100 to this outreach program. Thank you to all who shared their generosity.



SAVE THE DATE!

Hope to see you at Lapeer Days August 21-22 for egg rolls! Still have openings on the sign-up sheets.

	The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 2 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 9 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 16 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 23 HOLY EUCHARIST	The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 30 HOLY EUCHARIST
Clergy Serving	The Rev. Barbara Cavin	The Rev. Sue Rich	The Rev. Sarah Parks	The Rev. Sue Rich	The Rev. Ann Norton
Altar Guild	Jennie Spencer, LeeAnna Snipes & Sandy Arnold				
Altar Flowers	Julie Shepherd	Randye Clarkson Kyle Rhein	Don & Nancy Wells	Bob & Mary Ellen Thomas	Bob & Mary Ellen Thomas
Sanctuary Candle	Sandy Chapman	Charlie Coutcher	Dick & Darlene West	Bill & Lori Schmidt	Dick & Darlene West
Vestry Lockup	Harold Schneider				
9:00 SERVICE					
Ushers/Greeters	Cathy & Amy Webster				
LEM	Nancy Wells	Nancy Wells	Nancy Wells	Bryan Ludlow	Nancy Wells
Lector 1*	Harold Schneider	Barb Scharping	Robert Thomas	Tanna Sherrill	Craig Arnold
Lector 2**	Lori Schmidt	Mary Kay Mason	Nancy Wells	Jean Coon	Sandy Arnold
Acolytes			Josh Spencer	Nick Bagadinski	Josh Spencer
			Amy Webster	Jennie Spencer	Amy Webster
			Blake Tocco	Blake Tocco	
Hospitality Hosts	NEEDED	NEEDED	NEEDED	NEEDED	NEEDED

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

TRANSFERS IN

FUNERAL/MEMORIALS

**BAPTISMS/
CONFIRMATION**

WEDDINGS



August 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 Regular Sunday Service	3 <i>Nar-Anon mtg 7:00 pm</i>	4	5 6:30 pm The S Group	*****Legends Poker Room*****		8
9 9:00 Regular Sunday Service	10 <i>Nar-Anon mtg 7:00 pm</i>	11	12 5:30 Vestry Mtg 6:30 pm The S Group	13	14	15
16 9:00 Regular Sunday Service	17 <i>Nar-Anon mtg 7:00 pm</i>	18	19 6:30 pm The S Group	20	21 Lapeer Days Egg Roll Sale	22 Lapeer Days Egg Roll Sale
23 9:00 Regular Sunday Service Worship Committee Mtg	24 <i>Nar-Anon mtg 7:00 pm</i>	25	26 6:30 pm The S Group	27	28	29
30 9:00 Regular Sunday Service	31 <i>Nar-Anon mtg 7:00 pm</i>					

Grace Episcopal Church of Lapeer
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 810-664-2841
www.gracelapeer.org

“No Boxes For God”...by Garnet Haase

August is finally here and my high school reunion is only a few weeks from now. Preparing for this reunion helped motivate me to drop some weight and to exercise but its effect is more far-reaching than that. Reading my classmates' posts on Facebook, I get glimpses of how they've changed during their lifetimes. We're spread across the country. Some are still working and some are retired. Some are wealthy and some are poor. Some are fit and some are struggling with health issues.

All of us have changed since graduation. We all went our separate ways. Yet we all experienced things while in high school that influenced the course of our lives. This reunion has stirred up memories of the people and events that impacted us most. A number of us have dug through boxes stored in our basements and attics in search of yearbooks and memorabilia to help us remember who we were and who we hoped to become.

I've read what people wrote in my yearbooks and have seen patterns emerge as labels were applied to me. A number of different people used the same adjectives or labels to describe me but with different intentions. Some people praised me for my sense of humor, while others hinted at how my sarcastic comments hurt them. The labels described how I was perceived by others at that point in my life. I had to decide whether to leave the labels on or peel them off and toss them in the garbage because they were trapping me in boxes where I didn't want to be.

We use labels and boxes in an attempt to control the clutter and chaos in our lives. Years of receipts and tax forms get boxed and filed. Old photographs, cassette tapes, video tapes, vinyl records curl and fade and warp in the boxes where they were hidden years ago for safe keeping. But months flow into decades and the importance of our treasures dims. We forget the people who wrote in our yearbooks and were captured in our pictures.

Boxes and labels may help to organize the messiness of life on the surface but the jumble still remains within the boxes. Just because something is out of sight and out of mind doesn't mean we've dealt with it or remember its significance. Putting material objects in boxes and labeling the boxes for future reference are an attempt to control at least some element of our lives and may serve a purpose.

Unfortunately, we also try to box and label God, as well as the people. For instance, I often refer to God as he in my articles, not because it's accurate but because it's easier than struggling to find more expansive language. I put constraints on God, and do all of you a disservice, because it's so much simpler to close the door on the spiritual clutter, than it is to rip open the boxes and dig through the messiness.

But my efforts to hide from the pain and injustice and cruelty rampant in our world, in our country, in our state, in our county, in our towns, in our homes, even in our churches are futile. No matter how much I may want to remain blissfully ignorant of the suffering and inhumane treatment of people who have been slapped with labels and shoved into neat little boxes, I can't without losing myself in the process.

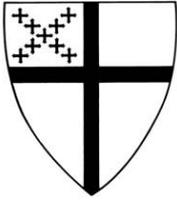
God can't be boxed and labeled. Our feeble attempts to keep God under control and manageable always fail. Even in the Bible, the images of God range from all-powerful creator to mama chicken wrapping her wings around her chicks, from lover to shepherd. Yet the whole collection of images cannot fully encompass God. God is messy and our personal and communal relationships with God are messy. Labels and boxes don't work on God. God won't be imprisoned by our small-mindedness.

Labels don't work on people either. Every day we witness the results of labeling people just because they're different from us in some way. The news is filled with images of people being beaten, murdered, thrown into to prison, having their churches burned, their homes bombed, their property confiscated and looted, because they're a different race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political party than those doing the labeling.

Thankfully, I have someone in my life who challenges me to look beyond the surface of my shallow existence, someone who cares deeply about the oppressed and disenfranchised and about how we as the people of faith understand our relationship with God and with his hurting masses, our neighbors.

Let's cut the tape off our spiritual boxes, peel off the labels and start digging through the messy stuff we find there, chucking what doesn't work, and discovering new ways to relate to God and to our neighbor.

Yours in Christ,
Garnet Haase



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Change Service Requested

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Web site: www.gracelapeer.org

Office Hours: Monday thru 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	Liaisons
Harold Schneider	Senior Warden	810-664-1398	Administration
Garnet Haase	Junior Warden	810-664-2878	Building & Grounds
Mary Kay Mason	Clerk of the Vestry	810-245-0020	Hospitality Outreach/ Parish Life
Tanna Sherrill	Vestry Member	810-338-4319	Christian Education/ Formation
Nancy Wells	Vestry Member	810-412-4414	Worship/Altar Guild
Robert Thomas	Treasurer/Vestry Member	810-664-7084	Marketing/Advertising
Staff		Rotating Priests	
Nick Ward	Organist	Rev. Ann Norton	St. John the Baptist
Lori Schmidt	Administrative Assistant	Rev. Sarah Parks	Otter Lake
Kathy Levitt	Custodian	Rev. Barbara Cavin	