

GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK
THE WEEKLY EPISTLE
The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost ~ 8 November 2009



Dear Friends,

Although the bulk of my communicating these days happens through email, I still do use the phone on my desk. The ring of my office phone makes a different sound when a call is coming from outside, as opposed to how it sounds when another staff member is calling from within the church. Calls from within are usually routine. Calls from without are often completely unpredictable in content. Yesterday my phone signaled that someone was calling from outside. No sooner had I picked up the receiver and introduced myself when a young woman announced that she wanted to come talk to me, the clergy staff, and members of the church. "I'd like to observe your rituals and have you explain your beliefs," she said. The caller went on to explain that she's a student assigned to write a paper about religion and she picked us. "It's due on December 3rd, so I don't have a lot of time," she added. I must confess that I inwardly sighed. The caller wants to understand, but she will never understand unless she participates. Imagine this hypothetical scenario: your family

has been picked by a team of sociologists who want to understand the 21st century American way of life. "May we observe you at dinner time," the caller asks? You agree. The team arrives with lab coats, clip boards, and pen protectors in their pockets. They watch you eat, taking note of what you talk about and how you interact with each other. When it's time to leave they ask to borrow your cookbook so they can better understand the food you ate, and a copy of your family tree. What will they understand about you, your family, and the food you ate? Not much. They won't understand because they haven't participated. Through participation you catch a spirit, you enter an ethos, you embrace a tradition. And so it is with the real caller on my office phone. I told her that by all means she is certainly welcome to attend services, and ask questions of the people. "Great," she said. "Are your services on Friday or Saturday?" "See you Sunday," I said. To her, and to you.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

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- 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Sermon: The Rev. Linda Bartholomew; Music: The Parish Choir
Nursery care for children ages 0-3; Sunday School for children at 9:00am
- 11:00 am Morning Prayer & Sermon**
Sermon: The Rev. Linda Bartholomew; Music: The Adult Choir
Nursery care for children ages 0-3; Sunday School for children during the sermon
- 6:00 pm The Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry**
Sermon: The Rev. Benjamin Thomas; Music: Hymns with piano instrumentalists

THIS SUNDAY

NEWCOMERS - Our current round of newcomer classes continues today in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at 10 am. If you are new to Grace Church and looking for a way to learn more about the Episcopal Church and connect with other parishioners and clergy, these conversations will be an excellent way to do so.

MORNING ADULT EDUCATION - On November 8th we will conclude our series, Who Do People Say God Is? with a discussion about the recent book by the British philosopher Antony Flew, There is a God: How the world's most notorious atheist changed his mind. The discussion will be led by the Rector.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION - Over the years many photos have been taken of Grace Church events. These images are now in the archives, and depict people that we can no longer identify. We hope you can and that you will help us. The photos will be displayed in the Archives Room immediately following the coffee hour after the 11am service on November 8th. Please stop by and have a look.

EVENING ADULT EDUCATION - Tonight we continue the sessions entitled Conversations with Scripture. Immediately following the 6 pm Eucharist, we meet in the Reception Room for refreshments. Then from 7:30 - 8:00 p.m. the preacher of the evening will facilitate a deeper look at the Scripture lessons that we heard in worship.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CHOIR SEVENTH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING PIE SALE - Information and order forms may be picked up and turned in at Coffee Hour or downloaded from the Music Area of the Church Website. For further information please talk with a choir parent. Completed Orders and Payment may be deposited in the "Pie" box below the large bulletin board opposite the Reception Room. Proceeds from the sale will aid in future trips, recording projects and other special choir projects.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP TODAY AT 5 P.M. - Centering prayer is a Christian meditation practice described by Father Thomas Keating in his book Open Mind, Open Heart. Drawing from the Christian contemplative tradition, the group is facilitated by Joe Budenholzer and meets in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.

FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETS at both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. At the 9 a.m. service, drop your children off at the Sunday School rooms near Tuttle Hall, and they will return to the service in time to receive Communion with you. At the 11 a.m. service, children join their parents for the first part of the worship service, and then process to their classes at the time of the sermon. For more information, contact Maura Hooper at 212 254-2000 ext. 113, or mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2009 - The pageant has been cast! You can find the cast list posted on the pageant bulletin board outside the Parish Office. We saw so much promising talent from everyone who interviewed last Tuesday and we are very excited for this year's performance! For pageant singers, don't forget to schedule your private voice session for Saturday November 14th! Email Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org to reserve your half hour between 9am-6pm that day.

PARENTING WORKSHOP SERIES - Grace Church is hosting a series of parenting workshop led by Ruth Wyatt and Hannah Wiltshire of Everyday Parenting. Ruth and Hannah are family counselors who specialize in child development and working with parents. They are offering a 4-week class for

parents of 5-10 year olds. The classes are on Tuesday mornings at 10am and start on November 10th. Topics covered in the class will range from peer relationships, to how to communicate with your child, and helping them balance school work with family life. Members of Grace Church receive a discount and priority registration through October 19th. For more information, email Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org or call her at (212) 254-2000 x.113. You can also register directly at info@everydayparentingnyc.com.

THIS WEEK

FIRST-MONDAY OUTREACH: On the first Monday of each month, the Outreach Committee is seeking to build a community of people concerned about those who are homeless and hungry. We begin in the church for a brief prayer service, and then move to Tuttle Hall for a light supper and sharing of options for serving the poor in New York City and beyond. Please use the Parish House entrance and arrive by 6:30 pm. Bring some cans of food for our food collection if you can do so. Call Linda Bartholomew for more information (212-254-2000 ext 114) or RSVP to outreach@gracechurchnyc.org.

BACH AT NOON - The organ compositions of Johann Sebastian Bach are played between 12:20 - 12:50 p.m. every Tuesday through Friday.

CHORAL EVENSONG with the Junior Choristers occurs each Tuesday that Grace Church School is in session, 6:00 p.m. in the church.

THE WED. MORNING BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN - Come to the Reception room at 10 to settle in, say hello to friends, then at 10:15 am sharp we study, discuss and learn the scriptures for 1 hour each week. For more information, contact Linda Bartholomew at lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org.

WEDNESDAY 6 P.M. EUCHARIST - Our mid-week Eucharist occurs in the Chantry, and is followed by a Bible Study in the Reception Room led by Rev. Bartholomew.

20s/30s TRIVIA NIGHT - St. James' Church uptown is hosting a Young Episcopalians Trivia Night Fundraiser on Saturday November 14th at 7:30pm. Grace Church's 20s/30s group is booking a table to compete for prizes and the glory of knowing that we very well may be the smartest Episcopalians in town! A \$20 ticket includes dinner and benefits Partnership for the Homeless. Contact Maura at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org or (212) 254-2000 x. 113 about reserving your spot at the table today!

NEXT SUNDAY

RELIGION AND THE PRESIDENCY - Professor David Holmes teaches at the College of William and Mary, and is one of the leading American historians. His particular area of focus has been the role of Christianity in American life, and he is the author of *A Brief History of the Episcopal Church and The Faiths of The Founding Fathers*. On Sunday, November 15, he will address us on the relation between religion and the Presidency, how the personal religious beliefs of the recent Presidents, and their approach to their faith, has been manifested in their approach to the office. Professor Holmes will give two addresses at Grace Church: at 10 am he will speak about Presidents Johnson and Reagan, and at 4 pm in Tuttle Hall he will speak about the religious faith of President Kennedy and his wife, Jacqueline.

PARISH LIFE

2010 ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

WE'RE OFF TO A GREAT START - Many thanks to everyone who has so far made a financial pledge in support of the Lord's work through Grace Church in the year 2010. So far 120 households have pledged for a total of \$603,567. This compares favorably to last year, when at this time 111

pledges were in for \$559,866. So the early indicators are good, but we still have a long way to go if we are to reach our ambitious goal of \$1,000,000 in pledges (last year was \$912,000). If you haven't yet made your pledge, you will find pledge cards on the tables in the Parish House Hallway near the Reception Room, in the narthex, and in the Chantry. Please seal your completed pledge card in the envelope, place it in the offering plate, or hand it to one of the clergy. If you would like to receive your pledge card by mail, please contact Joe Manzella at jmanzella@gracechurchnyc.org.

GRACE CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY is coming a bit early this year, on Sunday, November 22. The purpose of the day is to uphold and celebrate the common history, ministry, and mission of Grace Church and Grace Church School. At 10 am George Davison, Head of GCS will speak on the history of GCS. At 11 am the combined Girls' Choir and Choir of Men and Boys will sing, and the preacher will be the Rev. Daniel Heischman, Executive Director of the National Association of Episcopal School, and author of the recent book, *Good Influence: Teaching the Wisdom of Adulthood*. The service will be followed by a festive reception in Tuttle Hall.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING - On the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29th after the 9 and the 11 o'clock services, everyone will have the opportunity to make an Advent wreath, and learn more about how to use it. Do you know if you or your family will be participating? Please call Maura Hooper (212-254-2000 ext 113) or email (mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org) so we can have plenty of supplies on hand.

ABOUT THE ORGAN - The pipe organ that you see in the west gallery and south transept is no longer in service. Installed by the Herman Schlicker Co. in 1965, this Grace Church organ was a daring attempt to achieve a certain musical style, using experimental materials and the latest technology of the day. Sadly, these goals were only partially achieved. Neither the materials nor the technology proved worthy for the long haul, and the instrument was unable to exploit the unique acoustical properties of Grace Church. Recent electrical malfunctions have posed a fire hazard and are too costly to repair. The Vestry of Grace Church has commissioned Taylor & Boody Organbuilders to create for Grace Church a new pipe organ using the time honored methods of the craft that have allowed the life spans of organs in Europe to be measured in centuries, not decades. The organ that you hear today will bridge the gap between the old organ and the new. It is a 20-year old digital instrument manufactured by Allen Organs.

BAPTISM - The next date for Baptism is Sunday, January 10, 2010 at the 11 am service. Please arrange your family plans around one of these times, and contact Ted Pardoe at tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org.

A CALL FOR HOSPITALITY - The baked goods and other delicious nibbles that bless our after-service fellowship times are the gift of parishioners who volunteer to bring them. For anyone who wishes to participate in this much needed ministry of hospitality, we hope you will bring treats to share.

FOOD COLLECTION - This month we are directing our weekly food collection to Jan Hus Presbyterian Church and Neighborhood House. Please be generous with canned or non-perishable dry goods in the bins located in the church narthex.

ODDS AND ENDS

FLOWER DONATIONS - A gift of flowers on the altar is a lovely, time-honored tradition in the church. Flowers can be given to commemorate an important anniversary, to remember a departed loved one, or to give thanks for any of God's particular blessings. Interested in sharing the cost with others? This is another good way to keep our worship beautiful. Contact Bill Nave at bnave@gracechurchnyc.org

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are once again available for the 11 o'clock service. Ask an usher and he or she will be glad to assist you.

PRAYER LIST - If you would like to have a name added to the prayer list, please email Bill Nave: bnave@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000, ext 100 by Tuesday. Names will be read during the services for four weeks unless notified otherwise.