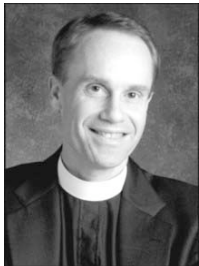


GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK
THE WEEKLY EPISTLE for 22 November 2009
The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King



Dear Friends,

Not long ago I was having a conversation with a bright, young member of Grace Church who is active in a number of parish programs. He's been around for a few years, and is definitely not a newcomer. I don't remember how the subject of Grace Church School came up, but it did. As we talked I found it fascinating that the young man was only vaguely aware that "there's a school over there." At the same time, I know that various members of the school community share a similar level of awareness that yes, indeed, "there's a church over there."

On the one hand, the fact that certain contingents of the church and school communities are only conscious in theory of each other's presence is a perfectly natural thing. The two communities are here at different times during the week. The church and the school have different missions. The church's mission is to connect you with God. The school's mission is to educate its students. To be sure, the two missions overlap, but they are not a complete overlay. So it's entirely possible to be part of one community and have little awareness of the other. On the other hand, we share not only a rich history, but certain staff members, and various critical pieces of the physical plant. So we do well to be aware of each other and work together for each other's good.

All of this comes to bear every year on a day we call Grace Church School Sunday. Please read below to learn how the morning will unfold. George Davison's history of Grace Church School is highly informative, Daniel Heishman is a fine preacher, and the combined choirs will be singing one of Handel's most thrilling pieces: "Zadok the Priest." Don't miss it.

See you Sunday.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. Benjamin Thomas

Music: The Parish Choir

Nursery care for children ages 0-3

Sunday School for children at 9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer & Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Daniel Heishman

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys with the Girls' Choir

Nursery care for children ages 0-3

Sunday School for children during the sermon

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Benjamin Thomas

Music: Hymns with piano, instrumentalists

SUNDAY:

GRACE CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY – At the 11 a.m. service we celebrate the common history and ministry of Grace Church and Grace Church School. Grace Church School was founded in 1894, and was originally known as The Chorister's School of Grace Church. Its purpose was to provide a trained, vested Boys Choir to sing at the services of the church. Over the years the school has undergone many transformations, so that today it is one of the finest educational institutions of its kind in Manhattan. Yet GCS has always remained true to its founding mission: to provide a Boys – and since 1994, also a Girls – Choir for the services of Grace Church.

A HISTORY OF GRACE CHURCH SCHOOL -

George Davison, Head of Grace Church School will be discussing the key moments in the school's history during our 10 a.m. education class in the Reception Room.

WELCOME TO THE REV. DANIEL HEISCHMAN

as our guest preacher for Grace Church School Sunday at 11 am. Dan is the Executive Director of the National Association of Episcopal Schools, and the author of the recent book, *Good Influence: Teaching the Wisdom of Adulthood*. We are delighted to have him with us today.

WELCOME TO TILDEN MARBIT - This morning

our guest artist playing bassoon during the 11 am Prelude is Tilden Marbit. Tilden was the 106th Optimus of the Choir of Men and Boys graduating from GCS in 2001 and F.H. LaGuardia High School in 2005. He recently graduated from McGill University (BM degree) and is currently a masters of music candidate at the Mannes College of Music.

FESTIVE FELLOWSHIP - Following the 11 a.m. service we will all enjoy a festive fellowship hour in Tuttle Hall. Please join us for an abundance of home-baked goods, and the further opportunity to welcome visitors from the school community. Special thanks go to Sarah McCain, Shannon Cave, and Dorothy Mitchell for organizing today's reception.

NEWCOMERS – Our current round of newcomer classes continues today in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at 10 a.m.. 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.

GIFT BASKETS for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas, will be on sale at the hospitality hour after the 9:00, 11:00 and 6:00 services. The baskets are \$50 each, and the proceeds of the sales will help send volunteers for our annual relief mission trip to New Orleans in the Spring of 2010.

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, please visit bulletin board to the left of the ladies room door. please visit the board and sign up for the service of your choice and the hospitality committee will be in touch with you shortly!"

EVENING ADULT EDUCATION – Tonight we continue the sessions entitled *Conversations with Scripture*. Immediately following the 6 p.m. 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.

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 - We need parent volunteers in order to make this year's pageant the best yet! Make sure you stop by the volunteer sign up sheet next to the pageant bulletin board to find out what pageant duties still need helpers. We also need your help on Pageant Workdays! They are December 12th, 19th, and 26th. Workday sign up sheets are now posted and ready for your signature on the wall opposite the pageant bulletin board. Get involved in the fun and lend a hand! Contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org or (212) 254-2000 x.113 with any pageant questions.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT- Our first Parents Night Out of the Fall is on Wednesday November 25th from 6 - 8p.m. If your family is staying in town for the holiday, give yourself a night to prep (or relax!) and drop the kids off in Tuttle Hall for dinner and a movie! Children 3 years and up are welcome. Please RSVP by Sunday November 22nd to Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000 ext. 113.

THIS WEEK:

BACH AT NOON – The organ compositions of Johann Sebastian Bach are played between 12:20 - 12:50 p.m. every Tuesday through Friday. There will be no Bach at Noon on Wednesday-Friday of this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

THE WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will not meet this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We resume Wednesday Dec. 2 at 10:15 sharp! Newcomers are always welcome.

WEDNESDAY SMALL GROUPS AND BIBLE STUDY will not meet this week, but will resume on Wednesday, December 2.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES are scheduled for Wednesday, November 25th, 6 p.m. in Chantry and Thursday, November 26, 11 a.m. in the Church. The Rev. Ted Pardoe will be the preacher. Both services include the Holy Eucharist and hymns.

NEXT SUNDAY:

ADVENT WREATH MAKING - Advent begins next week and that means it's time again to make wreaths for the season! On Sunday November 29th, join us in Tuttle Hall after the 9 and 11a.m. services for wreath making. Don't miss out on the opportunity to create your very own wreath for the Advent season! Suggestions for Advent devotionals and how to use your wreath will also be available during the coffee hours. For more information on wreath making, contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000 ext. 113

ADULT EDUCATION:

Meeting on most Sundays in the Reception Room at 10 am, conveniently between the two morning services is a discussion forum for adults that centers on matters of faith and practice that are important to Christians. Here's a look at what's ahead: **December 6:** "Christianity and Capitalism" – Susan Lee, an economist and television commentator will examine the links and the conflicts. **December 13:** "The Vatican's Offense?" – The Rev. Stephen Arbogast will help us understand the recent move by the Vatican to woo disaffected Anglicans into their fold. **December 20:** "Mysteries of Advent" – Matthew Holcombe, seminarian at Grace Church, will explain the various moods and traditions of this brief season in the Christian year.

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 157 households have pledged for a total of \$659,597. 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.

ATTENTION ACOLYTES AND ACOLYTE

HOPEFULS - Want to sit in the good seats in the front of the church? On Sunday December 6, there will be an acolyte training session after the 11 a.m. service in the main church. It will be held from 12:45-1:30p.m. and will introduce the basics of this important ministry to those interested in participating. In addition to carrying candles, crosses, and other important symbols of our faith, acolytes assist the clergy at the altar and generally find more meaning in the worship experience through active involvement in it. All current acolytes as well as those interested in acolyting are encouraged to come for this brief session led by the Rev. Benjamin Thomas. Questions? Email bthomas@gracechurchnyc.org.

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 is a 20-year old digital instrument manufactured by Allen Organs. It will bridge the gap between the old organ and the new.

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

FOOD COLLECTION – Last week members of the Outreach Committee took two huge barrels of food to the Village Methodist Church where it was gratefully received by the director of the food pantry, who said that because of increased demand it is nearly impossible to keep their shelves stocked. Many thanks!

ODDS AND ENDS:

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND GREENS - The beauty of Grace Church is enhanced at Christmas time with plants and greens made possible by the generous donations from our parishioners. Donations will be accepted throughout the month of December. More to follow, but if you'd like to make your gift early, please send a check for any amount to Grace Church, with "Christmas flowers" marked in the memo line.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are once again available for the 11 a.m. 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.