

THE WEEKLY EPISTLE

The Second Sunday in Lent + MARCH 20, 2011

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday it was a great, liturgical irony that the appointed Psalm for the day was number 32. Having watched by then several days of horrific destruction in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, all three congregations seemed to stumble over verses 7 and 8: *Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them. You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.*

We belong to the Episcopal Church, which in turn belongs to the worldwide Anglican Communion. Thus, when disaster strikes anywhere in the globe, we have established channels already in place through which we can send aid. In times of trouble, when the earth shakes, when the great waters overflow, the organizational arm of our church that goes into action is Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). Now more than ever ERD can use our help. Please visit their website at www.er-d.org to learn more about the work of ERD and how you can help. Gifts of any size will make a difference.

Please keep the people of Japan in your prayers. See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

9:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe

Music: The Parish Choir

Nursery care for children ages 0-3

Sunday School for children ages 3-8 at 9:00 am

11:00 am

Morning Prayer, Rite I and Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe

Music: The Adult Choir

Nursery care for children ages 0-3

Sunday School for children ages 3-8 during the sermon

6:00 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe

Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

THE SUNDAY FORUM: SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHIES - Join us in the Reception Room at 10 am during each of the five Sundays in Lent. We'll examine the faith journey of a well known Christian, from Paul the Apostle to C.S. Lewis. Coffee and refreshments are served. *Sunday, March 20th: The Spiritual Autobiography of Athanasius with the Rev. Ted Pardoe.*

LENTEN SERIES: PRACTICING OUR FAITH - BREAD FOR THE SOUL *The topic for March 20th: Hospitality in Our Church and Personal Lives Led by Josh Saxe and Joe Budenholzer.* Sundays, through April 10th at 12:45 pm in Tuttle Hall. Brief personal reflections lead by parishioners and interactive discussion. Every program begins at 12:45 pm with a light lunch, followed by the presentation and discussion from 1pm-2pm. For further information, contact Linda Bartholomew at lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org. Childcare during the series can be arranged through Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP 5 pm – This Christian meditation practice described by Father Thomas Keating in his book *Open Mind, Open Heart* is facilitated by Joe Budenholzer in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.

EASTER FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES While we don't have flowers on the altar during Lent, we do hope that you will consider making memorial or thanksgiving gifts to glorify God and fill the sanctuary with beautiful Easter flowers on Sunday, April 24th. Easter Flower Offering envelopes (found in the narthex, the Parish House or on the Chantry table) may be placed in the collection plate, the wooden box in the Parish House hallway, or the mail to Grace Church. Checks should be payable to Grace Church (Memo line: Easter flowers). You may also donate online with a credit card at www.gracechurchnyc.org (click GIVE, scroll down to FLOWERS). *For your donation to be listed in the Easter bulletin, we must receive it by Palm Sunday.* We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount you can give. *Many thanks to those who have already donated!*

ACCESS BETWEEN THE PARISH HOUSE AND CHURCH for restrooms, the Sunday Forum, Sunday school, choirs, and coffee hour is through the Honor Room door in the south transept, then through the corridor by the music room. Please follow the signs. After the 9 and 11 am services (not during) you may also use the passageway inside the sanctuary to the left of the altar, but the steps here are steep so do take care.

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS – Join us in Tuttle Hall following the 9 and 11 am services.

THE NURSERY is freshly painted (with more improvements to come!) and has moved back to the basement level. Take the elevator down to the lower level of the Parish House for childcare during both the 9am and 11am services.

SUNDAY SCHOOL takes place at both the 9 and 11 am services. All children ages 3-8 are welcome. At 9 am, parents may drop their children off at the classrooms near Tuttle Hall. Children then rejoin their parents in time to receive Communion. At 11 am, parents and children begin together in the church, and children follow the crucifer to their classes during the sermon. On 11 am Eucharist Sundays, children in 11am Sunday school return to church for Communion. On all other Sundays, children may be picked up from their classrooms after the service. For more information, contact Maura Hooper at (212) 254-2000 x113 or mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are available for the 11 am service from any usher.

THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, MARCH 21

THE DAILY OFFICE OF MORNING PRAYER is celebrated each Tuesday from 7:15 – 8 am in the 3rd floor conference room. Newcomers are always welcome.

WOMENS' BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS What does the woman at the well have to do with my own thirst? Come find out. Wednesdays from 10-11:30 am in the Reception Room. Contact The Rev. Linda Bartholomew at lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org for more information, or just come and join us.

HOLY EUCHARIST WEDNESDAYS at 6 pm – Celebrate in the Chantry with hymns and homily. This Wednesday's preacher is The Rev. J. Donald Waring.

SUSHI FRIDAYS & COMPLINE – Hungry for sushi? The 2040 Club is! Join us every Friday during Lent for sushi and a Compline service led by The Rev. Josh Saxe. Compline is a brief evening prayer service, and a great way to wrap up your week with fellow young adults! On Friday March 25th, we will meet at Grace Church at 6:30pm. We will order in, enjoy an evening of sushi and games, and end with prayer. RSVP to Josh Saxe at jsaxe@gts.edu or to Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 27

THE SUNDAY FORUM: SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHIES - Join us in the Reception Room at 10 am during each of the five Sundays in Lent. We'll examine the faith journey of a well known Christian, from Paul the Apostle to C.S. Lewis. Coffee and refreshments are served. *Sunday, March 27th: The Spiritual Autobiography of Saint Anselm with the Rev. Linda Bartholomew*

LENTEN SERIES: PRACTICING OUR FAITH - BREAD FOR THE SOUL *The topic for March 27th: Dying Well: Immersing Ourselves in Prayerful Sharing While Celebrating an Earthly Life led by Deborah Alexander and Mike Watson.* Sundays, through April 10th at 12:45 pm in Tuttle Hall. Brief personal reflections lead by parishioners and interactive discussion. Every program begins at 12:45 pm with a light lunch, followed by the presentation and discussion from 1pm-2pm. For further information, contact Linda Bartholomew at lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org. Childcare during the series can be arranged through Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

COMING SOON

JOIN THE ALTAR GUILD! Members will meet on Sunday, April 3rd at 12:30 pm in the Reception Room to discuss Holy Week, among other topics. We wish to expand our friendly group, and heartily welcome any newcomers who would like to find out more about the vital role we play in preparing for and supporting the worship of God at Grace Church. This ministry is not time-consuming or difficult, but is a source of much joy to its members.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASSES will meet each Tuesday from April 5th-May 10th from 3:30-4:30 pm in the Reception Room. Any 7th-12th grader interested in being confirmed during the bishop's visit on Sunday, May 15th is welcome. To indicate your interest, please contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org or (212) 254-2000 x.113.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS will be offered for all who desire to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church at the Visitation of Bishop Herbert Donovan on Sunday, May 15th. Contact The Rev. Ted Pardoe at tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org for further information.

MUSIC

Please check ahead; programs are subject to the celebration of special liturgies and other observances (call 212-254-2000/6).

CHORAL EVENSONG with the Junior Choristers is held each Tuesday at 6 pm. *Note: there will be no evensong on March 22nd and 29th while GC School is on recess.*

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

AFTERNOON ORGAN MEDITATION SERIES - Held each Saturday & Sunday at 4 pm in the Church through May 2011.

THE PARISH CHOIR WANTS YOU to come sing with them! Rehearse with the Parish Choir at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings and sing at the 9 a.m. Rite II Eucharist. If you have ever thought about joining a choir, this choir is for you! Families are most welcome. Contact Dr. Patrick Allen at pallen@gracechurchnyc.org to sign up.

THE NEW ORGAN is well under construction in the Shop of Taylor and Boody, Organ builders, in Staunton, Virginia. Photographs of the progress as well as other information about the design and construction of the organ are available on their website through this link: http://taylorandboody.com/opus_pages/opus_65/opus_65_main.html

OUTREACH

AID FOR JAPAN – Anyone desiring to send assistance to Japan for earthquake and tsunami recovery is encouraged to do so through Episcopal Relief and Development. Visit their website at www.er-d.org to learn more.

CONGRATULATIONS to the recipients of this year's Vestry Outreach Fund: The Interfaith Assembly of Homelessness and Housing and The New York City Rescue Mission. Awards will be presented at next month's Outreach Dinner on April 4th (6:30 pm, Reception Room). Come join us for this festive occasion and find out more about the work of these two excellent groups, as well as many others.

FOOD DONATIONS may be placed in the baskets in the narthex. Please be as generous as you can!

ARE YOU READY FOR THE GO Project TUTOR experience?! The GO Project provides critical year-round educational and family support to public elementary school children who are performing below grade level. We are seeking dedicated volunteers interested in contributing their time and talents to our weekday (Wednesday 3-5 pm) or Saturday (9:30 am to 12:30 pm) tutoring program to provide students with individualized instruction. Help make a positive impact in a child's life! For more information, please contact Olivia Nunez, at goprojecttutor@gmail.com.

PARISH LIFE

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES for your child? An option is Incarnation Camp, which offers an abundance of spiritually rich and fun activities for children and teenagers. Located only 2 hours outside Manhattan, it is a camp adventure close to home. Incarnation is a values oriented camp, which makes chapel and grace at mealtimes an integral part of the fun. For more information, you can visit their website at www.incarnationcamp.org, or email Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

NOW YOU CAN FOLLOW GRACE CHURCH on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/gracechurchnyc>) and Twitter (@GraceChurchNYC) thanks to our terrific volunteer tech team: David Verchere, Amanda Cochran and Andrea Nielsen!

TAKE A GUIDED WALKING TOUR of Grace Church on the first and third Sundays of the month at 1pm. The tours last about 15 minutes and highlight Grace's history and architecture. Self-guided cell phone tours are also available anytime the Church is open to visitors.

WHAT DOES YOUR ANNUAL FINANCIAL PLEDGE DO? Consider the following. Your annual pledge: Says a tangible "thank you" to God for all the blessings of your life, Supports the GO Project, a tutoring and social service program for 300 at-risk, public school students and their families, Keeps the church building open seven days a week for anyone who wants to come inside, warm-up, pray, rest, or meditate, Grows a resilient and reasonable faith in people of all ages through our ambitious music program and Christian education classes for children and adults, Spreads the good news of Jesus Christ through our presence and worship services, and Employs 13 full-time and 3 part-time people. In short, your annual pledge changes people's lives for the better. Thanks to all who have pledged for 2011. For those who haven't, please fill out your pledge card and respond today. You may also go to www.gracechurchnyc.org, click GIVE, and follow instructions from there. If you have any questions about pledging, please contact Stacie Styles in the Development Office at sstyles@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000 ext. 119.

SHARE IN THE HOSPITALITY MINISTRY Bite-sized goodies (savory and sweet) and help with serving and coffee-pouring are provided each week after the 11 am service by a faithful few. We would love to add new helpers and friends to our roster. Please see the bulletin board (near the ladies room) to sign up or you can e-mail danafoote1@me.com or charbarnard@yahoo.com with any questions.

TO ADD A NAME TO THE PRAYER LIST please contact Jennifer Metz at jmetz@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000 x100 by Wednesday at 5 pm. Names will be read during the services for four weeks unless otherwise specified.