

THE WEEKLY EPISTLE

Easter V † MAY 22, 2011

Dear Friends,

Well, we've been predicting it for a long time now, but this time we really mean it: the day is finally here. "Oh, sure," you say, "sure it is." I refer, of course, not to the end of the world, but to THE NEXT ROUND OF SCAFFOLDING inside of Grace Church. True, I've been warning you over the past few weeks that soon the sanctuary of the church (the altar area) will be filled with scaffolding in the ongoing effort of interior restoration: "right after Easter; early May; count on it," I've said. Yet each week you've arrived to find the church neat, tidy, and scaffolding free. Not this week!

Yesterday Bally and Partap, two of our devoted sextons, moved the huge stone altar cross into my office for safe keeping, and the sanctuary itself is being covered with protective plywood for the work to come. Over the next many months nine stained glass windows will be removed and restored (including the large Te Deum window over the altar), stone will be cleaned or re-carved, plaster will be repaired and strengthened, a new lighting system will be designed and installed. This is the third of ten restoration phases to take place inside the church; it's the biggest and most critical in preparation for the new organ's arrival in the summer of 2012.

We fully expect to be here on Sunday. Don't be left behind. Come and see!

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

9:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

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. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Junior Choristers with Adults

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. J. Donald Waring

Music: Hymns with instrumentalists



The Rt. Rev. Herbert Donovan, The Rev. J. Donald Waring and the Candidates for Confirmation & Reception, May 15th

SUNDAY, MAY 22

THE CHALLENGE PLEDGE IS NOW \$20,000 – Great news! Two of our parishioners have made the generous offer to jump start our annual fund with a \$20,000 challenge pledge. For the record, the 2011 Grace Church budget assumes annual pledging to be \$950,000, but until last week we were stalled at \$918,512. Now every new or increased pledge will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$20,000. Please don't miss a terrific opportunity to double the impact of your support of the Lord's work through the ministries of Grace Church. **STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE** by placing a check (payable to Grace Church, with "Challenge Pledge" in the memo line) in the collection plate or in the mail to Grace Church. You may also give online at www.gracechurchnyc.org (Click GIVE, scroll down to ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN, click DONATE and type "Challenge Pledge" in the comments). You may stipulate whether your gift will be a one-time payment, or something you wish to spread out over the year. Any gift you can make – new or increased – will make an impact, and we thank you!

THE SUNDAY FORUM: THE RESURRECTION NARRATIVES OF THE GOSPELS 10 am Each week we will consider a different Easter passage from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John, with regard to classic interpretations, the latest scholarship, and how these texts have inspired faith. Held in the Reception Room, refreshments are served.

PLEASE JOIN US IN TUTTLE HALL AFTER CHURCH for coffee and fellowship after the 9 and 11 am services before you go on your way. **LIKE TO HELP?** Our small group of 11 am Hospitality volunteers would love to welcome new helpers! To donate bite-sized (savory or sweet) treats or to assist with serving, please sign up on the bulletin board (near the ladies room) or e-mail (Dana) danafoote1@me.com or (Charlotte) charbarnard@yahoo.com.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CHOIRS' ANNUAL JUNE RAFFLE to benefit the CHOIR SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND! You can purchase a raffle ticket at coffee hour after the 11am service at the choir table and from choir families. The raffle includes many amazing items such as: an apple iPad; X-Box 360 Kinect; Amazon Kindle; Mets tickets; Pilates Sessions; Gift Cards to your favorite stores; Broadway tickets to "Anything Goes" and much more. Tickets are \$5 and \$10. Winners will be selected on June 12th. This fund supports many activities and opportunities for the choirs that are not covered by the annual budget including such special projects as the tour to Italy which took place last summer. Thank you for all your prayers and support.

SUNDAY SCHOOL for children ages 3-8 takes place at both the 9 and 11 am services. At 9 am, parents may drop 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 Holy 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. **NURSERY CARE** is available for children ages 0-3 during both the 9 and 11 am services. Take the Parish House elevator to the basement level.

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

CENTERING PRAYER 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.

THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, MAY 23

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY is held on Wednesdays from 10-11:30. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Linda Bartholomew at lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org for more information.

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

2040 CLUB MEMORIAL DAY POTLUCK BBQ will be held on Saturday May 28th at 4pm in Huntington Close. Join us for some good food and a chance to unwind! Please contact Maura Hooper by Wednesday, May 25th (mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000 x.113) to let us know if you are coming, and whether you can bring a dish to share.

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 29

THE SUNDAY FORUM is on recess for the holiday weekend, but please join us on Sunday, June 5th for the final installment of the "Resurrection Narratives of the Gospels."

COMING SOON

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY - Do you want to delve broadly across the most ecstatic of the classical prophets Ezekiel, engaging with more than his famous "valley of the dry bones" passage? Then consider participating in a five week Bible study, Wednesdays, June 1st – 29th from 7-8 pm (after 6 pm Holy Eucharist). If you are interested in joining, contact the Rev. Ted Pardoe at tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org.

FAMILY COMMUNION CLASS – On Sunday June 5th at 10:15 am in the Chantry, The Rev. Linda Bartholomew and Maura Hooper will continue our discussion on the sacrament of Communion with a second installment of our Family Communion Class. Designed for children under the age of 12, the class will address how and why we accept Eucharist in church. Parents are encouraged to participate. Contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org by Wednesday June 1st to register.

THE ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC is coming! On June 12th after the 11 am service we will celebrate the conclusion of the Bicentennial Capital Campaign, recognize our wonderful choirs and conclude the program year with a festive picnic on the lawn of Huntington Close. All are welcome! **JOIN OUR PICNIC VOLUNTEERS!** Each year the picnic is a terrific event due to the contributions of many. If you can donate time, talent or treasure to make this year's picnic a success, please contact Maura Hooper by Sunday, June 5th to let her know how you can help: mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org. Thank you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 27-30 – It's time to start thinking about Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is *God's Great Gifts*. Each day, we will explore our faith and God-given gifts through art, music and play. Kids ages 3-8 years old are welcome. Email Maura Hooper for a registration form at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org or stop by the bulletin board in the hallway outside the North Aisle Door.

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 when GC School is in session.

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 Chantry.

AFTERNOON ORGAN MEDITATION SERIES - Held each Saturday & Sunday at 4 pm in the Church through May 29th. The series will resume in September.

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.

OUTREACH

EPISCOPAL CHARITIES WISHES TO THANK all who responded so generously with a donation during our collection here at Grace Church on April 10th. 100% of each offering went directly to support much needed parish-based feeding programs in the diocese. If you wish to receive a tax receipt, please contact them directly at (212) 316-7575 or episcopalcharities@dioceseny.org.

NEW ORLEANS OUTREACH UPDATE – The Outreach group of Grace Church in partnership with the Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana (ECSLA) has just returned from a great week of rebuild work on 2 homes, including laying tile and laminate flooring, installing kitchen cabinets, and painting. Our efforts culminated in a BBQ at the end of the week, where we were joined by over 50 rebuild volunteers and members of the Lower 9th Ward community. Thank you to all who participated, organized, and supported our group!

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THE FOOD DONATION MINISTRY by adding to the baskets in the narthex each week. The emergency food pantry at The Church of the Village on West 13th Street, which seeks to offer hunger relief, information and life-affirming hospitality to the community, gratefully received last week two large barrels of food donated by you. Now we have two empty barrels to fill, so please continue to remember your neighbors in crisis when you shop each week.

PARISH LIFE

THE NEXT DATE FOR BAPTISMS is Pentecost Sunday, June 12th at the 11 am service. Contact The Rev. Ted Pardoe at tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org for information on infant or adult baptism.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RIK PIKE, who has been admitted as a postulant for ordination to the priesthood in the Diocese of New York. Rik has been discerning his call for some years now, and may enter seminary as soon as this fall.

RESTORATION UPDATE: We have now completed Phase 2 of the interior restoration. Some detail work remains in the north and south chancel aisles (on either side of the choir), but the plaster, stained glass, and stone have otherwise been restored to their original 1846 condition. Thanks to all who pledged to the Bicentennial Capital Campaign to make this work possible. Phase 3 will now commence, and include the same type of work in the choir and sanctuary (altar area). The great window rising above the altar (known as the Te Deum window) is not only the largest and the oldest window in the church; it has also been moved twice when the church was lengthened in the late 19th century. For this window to be saved, it must be completely rebuilt at considerably greater expense than originally anticipated. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IN OUR ONGOING RESTORATION EFFORTS**, please place your check made out to “Saving Grace” in the collection plate or in the mail to Grace Church, 802 Broadway, New York, NY 10003. You may also give online at www.gracechurchnyc.org (click GIVE, scroll down to SAVING GRACE). Please be as generous as 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.

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.