

THE WEEKLY EPISTLE

Easter VII † JUNE 5, 2011

Dear Friends,

It's Friday morning as I write this, and I have just come back to my office from the church after reviewing the progress of the restoration. The final touches of Phase 2 will be complete by the end of the day. Intricate stone work above the north aisle door near the baptismal font and stained glass windows in each transept have all been replaced.

Phase 3 is well underway. The entire sanctuary, including the altar and reredos, has been clad in plywood to protect it from the heavy-duty work that is about to commence. Whenever I begin to grow weary about all the construction that is happening at Grace Church, I look at the dramatic results of our efforts in the south transept and chancel aisles, and then I imagine how glorious it will be when the chancel and sanctuary will be returned to these pristine conditions. A fitting Biblical verse for us over the next months might be Revelation 21:5, "*Behold, I make all things new.*"

Don't let some plywood scare you away! The Word will be preached, the Sacraments administered, and the music will soar. See you in church.

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

Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Girls' Choir 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

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

THE SUNDAY FORUM: THE RESURRECTION NARRATIVES OF THE GOSPELS 10 am In this final installment of the Easter series, Nick Birns looks at Mark's suggestive account of the Resurrection and Matthew's expansion on it. We explore the faith and fear, hope and doubt, of the astonished Apostles and the beginning of the new life of the Church. Held in the Reception Room, refreshments are served.

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 of 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 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 recently 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!

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 11 am 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 last summer's tour to Italy. Thank you for all your prayers and support.

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.

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* takes place each Sunday in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.

THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, JUNE 6

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.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 12

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.

THE SUNDAY FORUM: THE KING JAMES BIBLE 10 am - The Authorized (King James) translation of the Bible was first published 400 years ago, in 1611. In celebration of this anniversary, Nick Birns expires the composition of this Bible in light of the history of Biblical translation as well as considering the wide effects it had in subsequent centuries, from influencing great works of literature to defining the nature of the church itself. Sunday, June 12th in the Reception Room, refreshments are served.

THE ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC is coming! On June 12th after the 11 am service we will 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!

COMING SOON

AN INTIMATE EVENING OF CHAMBER MUSIC: THE WILLOW ENSEMBLE under the artistic direction of Timothy Emerson, will hold its annual concert on June 10th and 11th at 8 pm in the Chantry. The program will feature our own Joshua Parrillo singing, and Patrick Allen playing the chamber organ. The program will include Bach's Cantata BWV 82, "Ich habe genug" for Bass Baritone and Chamber Orchestra along with Schubert's Die Forelle (for baritone voice and piano) and "The Trout" Piano Quintet. Ticket cost is \$15 (advance); \$20 (at the door). To reserve tickets at \$15/each, please send your full name, the date of the concert you wish to attend, and the number of seats you'll need to emerst@gmail.com or call (917) 698-8415.

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).

BACH AT NOON SUMMER SERIES – The organ compositions of Johann Sebastian Bach are played between 12:20 and 12:50 pm every Wednesday from June 1st through Sept. 7th in the Chantry.

AFTERNOON ORGAN MEDITATION SERIES is on summer recess, resuming 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

YOUR REGULAR DONATIONS TO THE FOOD COLLECTION BASKETS in the narthex help Grace Church Outreach to provide a monthly contribution of two large barrels of food to the emergency food pantry at The Church of the Village on West 13th Street. This ministry seeks to offer hunger relief, information and life-affirming hospitality to the community. Please continue to remember your neighbors in crisis when you shop each week.

GO SUMMER! The GO Project provides critical year-round educational and family support to public elementary school children who are performing below grade level. They are seeking dedicated volunteers interested in contributing their time and talents to GO Summer (Monday-Friday 1-5pm) from July 5th - August 5th. Help make a positive impact in a child's life! For more information, please contact Olivia Nunez at goprojectutor@gmail.com.

PARISH LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHNSON LAMBERT of our maintenance staff, who was recently sworn in as a citizen of the United States. Following the ceremony, Johnson posed for pictures with his 3rd grade son, Joshua, and the two wore matching red-white-and-blue ties. Originally from Grenada, Johnson had to pass a civic exam to be awarded citizenship. So go ahead: ask him about George Washington!

CONGRATULATIONS TO FORMER GRACE CHURCH CLERGY – On Wednesday, May 18, Benjamin Thomas was awarded his doctorate in Biblical Interpretation at the General Theological Seminary. And on Sunday, May 8, Jay and Allison Weldon became the proud parents their first child, Elizabeth Cecilia.

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.