

Sunday, November 6, 2011

Ecclesia Ministries / The Common Cathedral

Mike Watson, Grace Parishioner and New Orleans Mission Trip Committee Member

What did Jesus and the Old Testament prophets mean when they preached that we could move closer to the heart of God by getting closer to the poor? How can we as a Christian community engage the world in which we live, and better understand the beatitudes? The Ecclesia Ministries, begun seventeen years ago in Boston, has spread--first throughout the United States, and even around the world--opening the walls of our church to those who might never have entered it.

Sunday, November 13, 2011

Constructing the Ineffable

Karla Britton, PhD., Lecturer, Yale School of Architecture

Throughout the history of architecture there has been no more significant endeavor than the construction of houses of worship, which were once the focal point around which civilizations and city-states developed. In her recently published book, *Constructing the Ineffable*, architectural historian Karla Britton describes how sacred buildings are viewed in contemporary architecture and religious practice. Using visual examples of recent sacred architecture, Britton will examine how we define and understand sacred space, focusing on the role that design and construction play in religious buildings.

Sunday, November 20, 2011

The Grace Church School High School

George Davison, Head, Grace Church School, and Hugo Mahabir, Head, High School Division, Grace Church School

In September 2012, the inaugural class will enter Grace Church School's new High School located nearby on Cooper Square. George Davison and Hugo Mahabir will outline the plans for the program and campus and describe how the high school will creatively express and expand the school's rich tradition as "a place where children and adults can find deeper meaning, and lasting value together and where imagination, contemplation, and learning enlarge our minds and open our hearts"

Sunday, December 4, 2011

Contemporary Christians' Social Responsibility: An Introduction

Susan Lee, PhD, STM, Adjunct Professor for Systematic Theology, General Seminary

Economist and theologian Susan Lee will address contemporary Christian social responsibility, asking "What can we learn from the intersection of economics, politics, and Christian ethics about Christians' responsibility in a time of high unemployment and high government deficits.

Sunday, December 11, 2011

Outreach Efforts in the Diocese of New York

Rev. William Clay Parnell, Archdeacon for Mission in the Diocese of New York

Rev. Parnell serves as the Bishop's representative regarding the Diocese's witness to Christian ethics, mission and outreach, but will be working closely on a very practical level with its most hard-pressed communities. He oversees the Social Concerns Committee; the Congregational Life for Mission Commission; the Reparations Committee; the Children's Advocacy Committee and the Anti-Racism Committee.

Education Series

Grace Church Entry. Photograph courtesy of Krystyna Sanderson



GRACE CHURCH NEW YORK

The Sunday Forum

Fall 2011 Calendar

The Sunday Forum: The Church and The City

This fall, the Sunday morning Grace Church Adult Education classes will look at how the church manifests itself in the city both physically and metaphorically. How do neighborhood and diocesan-wide faith communities complement our parish and strengthen broader community? What can narratives of church community life in literature teach us about current ways to integrate our faith experience into the urban fabric? How does the diocesan election for New York Bishop Coadjutor relate to us at Grace? How can the restoration of our physical building double as Christian witness? How can the paradigm of a “common cathedral” expand our current community? Adult Education classes offer both newcomers and long-time members of the parish spiritual nourishment, opportunities to get to know one another, and in-depth discussion on issues that are central to both the church and individual members.

All classes start at 10 am on Sundays. Advanced registration is not required and all classes are free of charge. Each presentation will include time for questions and answers. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Sunday, September 25, 2011

Faith Communities: Neighborhood and Diocesan-wide Interfaith Outreach/Associations

The Rev. Ted Pardoe, Assistant Rector, Grace Church

What is Grace Church’s role in the amazing religious diversity of our neighborhood and the City? The Rev. Ted Pardoe will provide an exploration of possibilities from diocesan-wide to neighborhood-based initiatives. The Diocese’s Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission, the Interfaith Center of New York, and Local Faith Communities of the East Village as a range of models to be considered

Sunday, October 2, 2011 ~ The Church in Literature Series

“The City Preaches the Best Sermon:” The Episcopal Church and Moral Growth in Gilded Age American Fiction

Nicholas Birns, PhD, Associate Professor, The New School

This discussion will examine this complex role of the Episcopal Church in two very different American novelists of the Gilded Age, Edith Wharton and William Dean Howells. Wharton, who famously had several links to Grace Church, and Howells, who set this great novel *A Hazard of New Fortunes* in Greenwich Village, speak to issues of morality, economics, and social justice still relevant to our community today.

Sunday, October 9, 2011

Examining Your Spiritual Life

The Rev. Linda Bartholomew, Associate Rector, Grace Church

Our Diocese is in the process of selecting a Bishop Coadjutor. Each candidate was required to respond to questions on topics ranging from individual prayer life to leadership style. The Rev. Linda Bartholomew will lead a discussion for participants to address some of the questions posed to the candidates: Describe for us your personal spirituality and prayer life. What practices do you follow regularly? What experiences have most profoundly contributed to your spiritual life? What or who has most influenced you; how have those influences changed over time? How have you articulated your spiritual vision to others? Come prepared for a thoughtful discussion about the intersection of leadership and spirituality.

Sunday, October 16, 2011

Restoring Grace Church: The Craft and Preservation of Stained Glass

Julie L. Sloan, Stained Glass Consultant and Tom Garcia, founder the Gil Studios with Kevin Daly, Architectural Conservator, Walter Melvin Architects

Currently the chancel is the focus of the ongoing restoration program. This phase includes the removal and total rebuild of the stately Te Deum window above the altar which measures 17’ wide by 34’ tall, in addition to the restoration of eight other stained glass windows, plaster and stonework. Kevin Daly, the architectural conservator who is leading the restoration will join Julie L. Sloan, who has guided the restoration of the windows for over two decades and stained glass artist Tom Garcia of Gil Studios to discuss the processes underlying the design and restoration of these intricate and beautiful historic windows.

Sunday, October 23, 2011 ~ The Church in Literature Series

Christian Accountability: Institutional and Personal in Anthony Trollope’s *The Warden*

Diana Benet, Ph.D, University of North Texas

Beneath the romance and gentle comedy, Trollope satirizes some aspects of the Victorian Church of England. The Church is almost a character in *The Warden*. It is regarded by many as an entity with a life, purpose, and needs of its own, and Trollope’s plot shows that this “character” can endanger individual conscience.

Sunday, October 30, 2011

Finding Common Ground

The Rev. Sarah Wood, Chaplain, Grace Church School

“... For I was hungry and you gave me food ...” *Matthew 25:35*

Faith-filled lives beckon us to the expansive and awesome life of our incarnate Lord. Work with Common Ground and a homeless community of Atlanta became an experience wherein I discovered the inextricable relationship of us all, to and with one another. Come and hear a reflection on the great stretch of Christ’s body and a theology enfolded, practiced, making that very connected and transformative truth of our lives known.