

The Weekly Epistle
All Saints' Sunday
November 6, 2011
GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK



Dear Friends,

This year, as is true most years, the New York City marathon occurs on the same day as All Saints' Sunday. Although I have never entered a marathon, I used to be a fairly devoted runner. Years ago a parishioner of mine in the previous church I served convinced me to run in a 5k road race with him. No problem, I thought. I could do that without breaking a sweat. Just before the race began, Stacie and some other friends went over to the finish line to wait for what I fully expected to be my triumphant arrival. The gun went off, the race began, and all went well until about a third of the way in, when the route turned sharply and what seemed permanently uphill. It was miserable. I forgot about finishing well and worried about finishing at all. I did finish, and what kept me going through the worst moments was the knowledge that I had friends on the finish line waiting for me.

I have always thought it to be a happy coincidence that the marathon and our celebration of All Saints occur on the same day. Life is hard. Sometimes it seems to be one uphill climb after another. The message of All Saints' Day is this: we have friends on the finish line waiting for us. Those who have gone before us - parents, grandparents, spouses, friends, and most of all the Lord Jesus himself - are even now cheering us onward. A Scripture verse from Hebrews (12:1) says it well: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.*

See you in church, unless, that is, you are running in the marathon.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

Schedule of Services

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 Choir of Men and Boys and The Girls' Choir
Nursery care for children ages 0-3
Sunday School for children ages 3-8 during the sermon

4:00 pm

Choral Evensong
REQUIEM by Alfred Desenclos
The Adult Choir

6:00 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry
Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe
Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

Announcements

2012 ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

And let us also thank everyone so far who has made a financial pledge to the work of the Lord through Grace Church for the year 2012. We are off to a great start but are still hoping to hear from many parish households. Pledge cards and brochures have been mailed out and are also available in your pews, in the narthex, and outside the Reception Room. God has blessed us with a vibrant parish family, stunning architecture, glorious music, a tradition of reaching out to the least and the last in society, and most of all, the gift of his presence and companionship through all eternity. In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, and to empower the ministries of the church, we urge each household to commit to a financial gift for the coming year.

COCKTAILS AT THE RECTORY

In gratitude to those who make a 2012 pledge to Grace Church, Don and Stacie Waring will host two festive cocktail receptions at the Rectory on Thursdays, November 10 and 17 at 6:30 pm. You will receive an invitation from the Development Office upon receipt of your pledge card, and you may choose which date works best for you. Child care will be available in the church nursery for children up to age 4. Let's have the whole parish gather together in thanks to God for the Grace Church family.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6

TODAY IS ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY; the magnificent feast on the Christian calendar when we celebrate the Communion of Saints, and proclaim that in Christ, death does not separate us eternally from our loved ones.

SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - ECCLESIA MINISTRIES/THE COMMON CATHEDRAL

with Mike Watson, Grace Church 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. Today's presentation is part of our fall Sunday Forum series, "The Church and the City," which is looking at how the church manifests itself in the city both physically and metaphorically. Each presentation will include time for questions and answers and takes place in Tuttle Hall with coffee and refreshments.

CHORAL EVENSONG 4PM

The Adult Choir will offer Choral Evensong featuring the REQUIEM of Alfred Desenclos as the primary musical meditation. The Evening Canticles will be those set by T. Tertius Noble in a minor and the Prayers those set by William Byrd.

THANKSGIVING PIE SALE FOR CHOIR SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND

Delicious pies can be sampled on 11/6 and 11/13 at Coffee Hour after the 11 am service and ordered for your Thanksgiving feasts. You can also look for the "pie box" in the parish house hallway where you can drop your completed forms with cash or check. You may also order online at www.gracechurchnyc.org - simply click 'Give to Grace', click 'Donate', select Contribution Category 'PIE'. Fill in required information and type your order selections in the 'Comments' section. For orders of 10 pies or more, you can have DELIVERY to your home or office. Order deadline: Tues. 11/15, Pickup day: Tues. 11/22. Here is a perfect way to say "thank you" to a hostess, teacher, coach, nanny, doorman, tutor or loved one! \$10 from every

purchase goes directly to the fund.

WE WELCOME YOU TO HELP WELCOME OTHERS!

Our small group of 11 am Hospitality volunteers is greatly in need of more 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. GENTLY USED PLATTERS OR LARGE PLATES NEEDED for Tuttle Hall kitchen. If you are doing any spring cleaning this fall :) please consider donating any of your unused platters or large plates to the hospitality committee. Just bring them to the Tuttle Hall Kitchen on any Sunday and we will gladly put them to good use!

CENTERING PRAYER 5 PM Christian meditation each Sunday in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.

COMING SOON

NOV 7 - OUTREACH MONDAY POTLUCK SUPPER

Join us as we meet in Tuttle Hall at 6:30 pm for a brief prayer service followed by a potluck supper. (Bring anything you would like in the way of food or beverages.) This week representatives from Exodus, Interfaith Assembly for Homelessness and Housing, Seaman's Institute, and the New York Rescue Mission will acquaint us with their programs and invite participation in the coming month. Joining us also will be the 20s30s groups of Trinity Church and our own Grace Church! Contact the Rev. Linda Bartholomew lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org for more information.

NOV 8 - CHRISTMAS PAGEANT INTERVIEWS

Christmas Pageant rehearsals are about to begin! Interviews for solo, duet, and trio singers will be held on Tuesday, November 8th from 2-6pm in the Music Room. All pageanteers participating in the ensemble may fill out and return a Cast Info Sheet at the pageant bulletin board outside the Parish Office by Tuesday November 8th at 6pm. Children 5 and older are welcome to participate. Contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org to schedule an interview appointment for your child.

NOV 9 - WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Our Rector, Don Waring and new Assistant Rector, Sarah Wood continue a discussion on the controversial book, *Love Wins*, by the author Rob Bell. *Love Wins* purports to be a book about heaven, hell, and the fate of every human being who has ever lived. Bell's thoughts are raising eyebrows, particularly in evangelical circles. The book is an easy read, and is available at local book stores and online. Join us for what promises to be a spirited discussion. The only requirement for participation is that you read the book. On Wednesdays, November 2, 9, and 16 at 7 pm in the Reception Room (directly after 6 pm Holy Eucharist).

NOV 11 - OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY AT SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE

Join us for an off-campus service opportunity at the Seamen's Church Institute in Newark, NJ on Friday November 11th from 4:45-9 pm, where we will organize and wrap gifts for SCI's Christmas at Sea program. Every year, the institute offers hand-knit hats, scarves, and socks to 1000 seafarers who dock at the Port of Newark over the holidays. Spend your evening making a difference! The group will meet seminarian Kim Rowles at Grace Church at 4:45pm, hop on the PATH train and proceed to SCI from Newark Penn Station. We will return around 9 pm. Pizza dinner provided. RSVP to krowles@gts.edu today!

NOV 11, 12 - INTIMATE EVENINGS OF CHAMBER MUSIC - THE WILLOW ENSEMBLE

under the artistic direction of Timothy Emerson, will hold concerts on Friday, Nov 11 & Saturday, Nov 12 at 8 pm in the Chantry, featuring works by Poulenc (Trio for Oboe, Bassoon, & Piano), Haydn ("Sunrise" Quartet) and Shostakovich (Piano Quintet). Tickets are \$15 advance/\$20 at the door. To reserve seats at \$15 each, email emerst@gmail.com or call (406) 861-8280 (specifying name, number of tickets and concert date).

NOV 13 - SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - CONSTRUCTING THE INEFFABLE

with 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.

NOV 13 - ALTAR GUILD MEETING FOR MEMBERS AND INQUIRERS

Please join the Rev. Don Waring, the Rev. Linda Bartholomew and AG Co-Chair Helen DuBois after the 11 am service on November 13th in the Reception Room to review the upcoming season. The Altar Guild meets just twice per year, so why not take advantage of this rare opportunity for fellowship and idea-exchange across all services. We always need "many hands" to share this "light work," so members please invite a friend, and inquirers come along and ask questions (no pressure)!

NOV 20 - GRACE CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY

The purpose of the day is to uphold and celebrate the common history, ministry, and mission of Grace Church and Grace Church School. At the 10 am Sunday Forum George Davison, Head of GCS, and Hugo Mahibir, Head of the soon-to-open GCS High School division will speak about the new project. At 11 am the combined Choir of Men and Boys and the Girls' Choir will sing. The preacher will be Dr. Sam Wheeler, longtime Head of the Religion and Ethics department at GCS. The service will be followed by a festive reception in Tuttle Hall.

NOV 23, 24 - THANKSGIVING SERVICES IN THE CHANTRY

are scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 23 at 6 pm and Thursday, Nov. 24 at 11 am. The Rev. Ted Pardoe will be the preacher for both services, which will include the Holy Eucharist and hymns.

PARISH NEWS

THE RESTORATION PHASE 3 - OCT 2011 UPDATE

The project of removal and restoration of nine stained glass windows in the chancel and sanctuary area is proceeding according to schedule. The scaffolding should recede back to the communion rail giving us enough space to celebrate Christmas, and then disappear entirely well before Easter 2012 (Alleluia!). For further details and pictures of the latest work, click [HERE](#). TO HELP place your check made out to "Saving Grace" in the collection plate or in the mail to Grace Church. You may also give online [HERE](#) (Scroll down to SAVING GRACE). We are deeply grateful for your gifts to the current and future families of Grace Church.

A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS During the restoration, with the altar moved closer to the pews, we have found a terrific small neighboring business to arrange casual bouquets to flank the altar - at a much more affordable price than the large formal arrangements. You may now give flowers in memoriam, thanksgiving or celebration for just \$60. Contact Jennifer Metz at jmetz@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000 x100.

DID YOU MISS A SERMON?

Click below to read or listen to a sermon

<http://gracechurchnyc.org/online-sermons/>