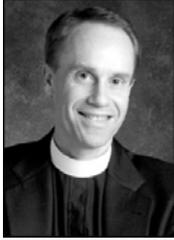


The Weekly Epistle
The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
November 13, 2011
GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK



Dear Friends,

Last Tuesday evening the Vestry heard a report from Kristine Miller of Horizons Stewardship Co. regarding the feasibility study that many of you participated in earlier this fall. The purpose of the study was to gauge the congregation's understanding of and support for the ongoing interior restoration. In all, Kristine conducted 33 face-to-face interviews, and then heard from another 105 respondents through the online survey. Some noteworthy findings:

- 78% believe the current restoration project is a faithful response to God's leading for Grace Church.
- 83% believe this current project is an important aspect of Grace Church's mission and ministry.
- 48% would be willing at this time to make a gift to help finish the project, 31% were unsure, and 29% would be unwilling to make a gift.
- 52% believe that most people in the parish are aware of why the restoration is necessary, 41% are unsure, and 7% do not believe people understand the necessity of the project.

Other themes that emerged from the feedback were: A. How another capital campaign would relate to the Bicentennial Campaign of just a few years ago; B. A greater sense of clarity about how much has already been raised through the Bicentennial Campaign, Adopt-A-Pipe, and other sources; C. What is the timeline for future phases of restoration, as even after this phase a large part of the church will remain unrestored.

Above is just a brief snapshot of a very full report that takes into account an analysis of our total parish membership, current giving trends, and demographics of the zip codes we serve. Based on their findings, Horizons Stewardship strongly recommends that we actively address the communication gaps and proceed with a capital campaign in early 2012, with a goal of funding as much of the current project as possible without having to borrow any more than necessary from the endowment. I am pleased to say that the Vestry accepted the report, and after a thorough round of questioning, voted unanimously to proceed with the recommendations therein. Much more detail to come, so stay tuned.

Finally, the Sunday Forum promises to be a real treat this week. Read below and make plans to attend. See you in church.

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

Morning Prayer, Rite I and Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

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

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 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. *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.*

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.

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)!

20s30s SECOND SUNDAY BRUNCH - Join the 20s30s group for Indian food at Jackson Diner on University Place and 11th Street on Sunday, Nov 13th at 1 pm. Look for Singleton Cox in Tuttle Hall after the 11am service, who will gather and lead the group to the restaurant.

COMING SOON

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 20 - SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - THE GRACE CHURCH HIGH SCHOOL with 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."

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.

NOV 27 - ADVENT WREATH MAKING - On the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27 after the 9 and 11 am services, all are welcome to make Advent wreaths in Tuttle Hall. Following the 6pm service, wreath making will take place in the Honor Room. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. If you wish to help, contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org. (Please note there is a minimum suggested donation of \$15 per wreath.)

NOV 27 - SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AGES 9-12 takes place on the 4th Sunday of every month during the 11 am service in the McKittrick Room, located across from the current Sunday School classrooms. For more information, please contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

DEC 1, 2, 3 - THE CHORAL SOCIETY'S CHRISTMAS CONCERTS A festive program featuring Randall Thompson's "Peaceable Kingdom," works by Gabrieli, Bernstein, Pärt and Billings, and audience carol sing will take place this year at the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, 145 W 46th St. on Thursday, Dec 1 (8 pm), Friday, Dec 2 (8 pm), and Saturday, Dec 3 (3 pm). Tickets are \$25, available through Nov 30 at www.thechoralsociety.org.

DEC 4 - AN ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS with works by Byrd, Gibbons, Palestrina, Tallis and others. Sung by The Adult Choir at 4 pm in the Church.

JAN 13-15 ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT at Holy Cross Monastery. Save the date!

PARISH NEWS

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS UNDERWAY! We've got an amazing cast of 83 pageanteers and returning alums! Thanks to all the brave singers who participated in pageant interviews. If you are a parishioner who is interested in volunteering, we want you! Sign up at the pageant bulletin board or email Maura at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) of Grace Church was a success. After potluck dinner and socializing, a blessing from the Rector, and a quick lesson on the history and mission of the ECW, the women broke into groups to brainstorm how they could best serve the church and each other. Please save the date for the next meeting on Jan 5, 6:30-8:30 pm. Contact Elana at elanafoundos@gmail.com with questions.

THE RESTORATION PHASE 3 - NOV. 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.

GO PROJECT HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERING GOP is currently looking for volunteers to help with its annual Holiday Party for the GOP families-a wonderful project for adults and children to work on together. If you can help ahead of time with preparation (assembling goodie bags and arts and crafts projects, etc.) or at the holiday party itself (Sat, 12/17 from 9:30-12:30 pm), please contact Olivia at onunez@goprojectnyc.org.

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/>