

THE WEEKLY EPISTLE
The Last Sunday after the Epiphany
February 19, 2012
GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK



Dear Friends,

About that email you sent me in the last two weeks ... or the letter you wrote ... or the voicemail you left ... I'm getting to it. Nearly two weeks ago I managed to catch the nastiest flu I have ever experienced, complete with the high fever, chills, body aches, cough, massive headache - the full treatment. I spent nine days in bed, called in sick for the first Sunday in 23 years of parish ministry, and wondered if it would ever end. It did. I am well, and gratefully so. I emerged late this week with the spring returning to my step, yet with a renewed sense of how fragile we ultimately are, and what a blessed thing it is to have people who care for you. In those moments when I felt angry at myself for being sick, or overwhelmed by what wasn't getting done, or simply miserable with the symptoms, one thing I found especially helpful was breathing the Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

On another note, we received word at the parish office today that Barbara Quintero, a former warden of Grace Church, recently lost everything - including her two dogs - in a house fire in New Jersey, where she has been living and working. Barbara was not at home at the time, so she was uninjured, but is in need of professional work clothes. She wears a size 6/8 clothing and 6 ½ shoe. For those who remember Barbara and would like to help, we have set up a bin inside the parish house door so marked.

Now, on to that backlog of correspondence!

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

Schedule of Services

9:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. Linda Bartholomew

Music: The Parish Choir

11:00 am

Morning Prayer, Rite I and Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Linda Bartholomew

Music: The Adult Choir

6:00 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Linda Bartholomew

Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

2012 Annual Campaign



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. In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, and to empower the ministries of the church for our own and future generations, please make your commitment to a financial gift for the coming year.

UPDATE: We're getting closer! As of last week, 208 households have pledged for a total of \$938,235. At this time last year, 175 households had pledged for \$828,845. If you have not made your pledge, please do so today. We need your help to reach our \$1 million goal.

To read the 2012 Annual Campaign brochure and/or make your pledge now, click the image of the brochure at left.

If you have any questions about pledging, please contact Brian Hagan, Director of Development, at 212-254-2000 x119 or bhagan@gracechurchnyc.org.

Announcements

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19

THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S PRAYER concludes with the final installment in a series led by The Rev. Dr. Robert J. Owens, Professor of Old Testament at the General Theological Seminary. The simple little prayer that is usually called the Lord's Prayer (the "Our Father") has been loved and recited by Christians from the first century in both private devotion and corporate worship. From the Middle Ages onward, the Lord's Prayer has been one of the core features of Christian catechisms. In our classes we will study, among other things, its individual phrases, to show the great themes of faith and human existence that each suggests. Join us in the Reception Room. Coffee is served.

PARENTS' AFTERNOON OFF On Sunday February 19th, children and youth are invited to join Miss Maura and several adult chaperones for lunch and a movie following the 11am service. We'll enjoy lunch in the nursery and then catch an afternoon showing of Big Miracle at the AMC Loews on 3rd Ave and 11th St. Kids may be dropped off in the nursery downstairs after the 11 am coffee hour and should be picked up at the 802 Broadway door at 4 pm. The cost per child for lunch and a movie ticket is \$20. *RSVP required by Friday Feb 17th to Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.*

COMING SOON

FEB 21 - SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER Mardi Gras is coming to Grace Church this Tuesday, Feb 21st at 6 pm. Come celebrate with pancakes, great music, and parish-wide fun in Tuttle Hall! All are welcome! There will be a suggested donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children at the door. If you are interested in volunteering for the event, please contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

FEB 22 - ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES will be held at 8 am in the Chantry, and 12:10 and 6 pm in the Church. All services include homily, Eucharist, and the imposition of ashes. The two earlier services are expected to last for approximately 45 minutes.

FEB 29, MAR 7 BOOK DISCUSSION (NO CLASS ON FEB 22) - On Wednesday evenings at 7 pm (directly after 6 pm Holy Eucharist) in the Reception Room, The Rev. Sarah Anne Wood continues a discussion on Henri J. M. Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*. The four-week program (commencing Feb 8) begins with an introduction to the author, the book, and to one another. The second session will focus on Part One of the book. Then, the second and third parts of the book will be discussed in the following weeks, respectively. The time promises to include the divine gifts of theological

reflection and gracious relationship. All are welcome!

20s30s LENTEN PROGRAMS The 20s30s group is planning two programs to promote reflection and fellowship throughout the Lenten season. Join us for a meal and fellowship at our SUSHI FRIDAY dinners at 7 pm every Friday during Lent starting on February 24th. Stay tuned for more details, or contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org. We all know how to pray in public, it's what we do here every week, but how do you pray in private? If you'd like a crash course, join Seminarian Kim Reinholz for PRACTICING PRAYER WITH PURPOSE in 20 to 30 minutes for 20 to 30 year olds. The group will meet in the Reception Room from 7-8 pm (following the 6pm service) every Sunday in Lent starting on February 26th. You may attend all sessions, or just drop in for one or two. Please contact Kim at krowles@gts.edu with any questions.

FEB 26 - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - T.S. ELIOT'S "ASH WEDNESDAY," the first major work he composed after his conversion to Christianity, is one of the great lyric sequences of the twentieth century. Nicholas Birns will lead a discussion on the striking imagery and innovative structure of this deeply personal poem that speaks of our distance from and our closeness to God, our spiritual thirst and the possibilities for its replenishment.

FEB 26 - MAR 25 LENTEN LUNCHEON SERIES 12:30 PM *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth* by Richard Foster will be the focus of this year's presentation and group discussion series. Each week we will focus on one of five disciplines: Guidance (led by John Berringer and Mike Watson; Confession (Abby Carr); Service (Nicholas Birns); Submission (Rebecca Myers) and Worship (Richard Limato). A soup and bread lunch will be served. Sundays in Lent, February 26 to March 25, in the Reception Room from 12:30 - 1:45 pm. For more information, contact Rebecca Myers at rmyers@gts.edu or Mike Watson at mwatson@gts.edu. Join us next week 2/26 as we explore Guidance. We'll discuss how we hear God's voice and act upon it.

MAR 11 - ALTAR GUILD MEETING - NEWCOMERS WELCOME Please come to our annual spring meeting on Sunday, March 11 after the 11 am service (approximately 12:30-1:30). Among other topics, we will review plans for Lent and Easter. This is one of only two meetings per year and it is important and enjoyable to get together and meet each other and exchange ideas. Grab a coffee in Tuttle Hall and bring yourselves, your ideas, and any friends you think might be interested in serving.

APRIL - YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASSES will begin the second week of April. Classes continue for six weeks and are led by the clergy in preparation of the bishop's visit on Sunday May 20th. If your child is in 7th-12th grade and is interested in being confirmed, email Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org to sign up.

PARISH LIFE

FEB '12 RESTORATION UPDATE: THE VIDEOS! New videos featuring the Rector high in the Te Deum window and deep in the basement explain the ongoing work. To view, click [HERE](#).

THE POWER OF GRACE is the theme of the capital campaign that will be our spiritual journey over the next several months. Watch your mail this week for a vision brochure that maps the road ahead for us.

DID YOU MISS A SERMON?

Click below to read or listen to a sermon

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