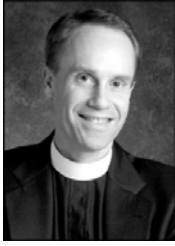


THE WEEKLY EPISTLE
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 25, 2012
GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK



Dear Friends,

Good news, and bad news. Progress, and set backs. The good news is the visible progress on the interior restoration as we press on towards the goal of having the entire chancel and sanctuary available to us for Holy Week and Easter. This week you will notice that the temporary cut we had made in the nave is gone. Ten pews are back in place after more than a year of being stacked in the Honor Room. The reason they had to be removed was for people circulation around the many variations of scaffolding that have been necessary for the different phases of work.

As you have undoubtedly noticed, the Grace Church pews are unique in this day and age. They have doors on them with latches that sometimes even the brightest and best newcomers cannot figure out how to open. Yet at the same time, the doors help young parents to contain the energy of toddlers, who are naturally prone to wander. When it comes to kneeling, our pews are perhaps the most uncomfortable in all of Christendom. Some have said this is good for the soul and helps keep the mind focused on God while praying! The pews are also rich with history. They are original to the church, nearly 170 years old. As the millworkers were fitting them back into place and strengthening them with new screws and brackets, old nails that could not be reused were quite probably hammered out by a blacksmith. The plaques on the pews date from the days of the old pew rental system, when people supported the church not with an annual pledge, but by renting a pew where no one else then could sit.

Mention of the plaques brings us to the bit of bad news I reference above. It's not really a set back, but a sadness. In one of the pews was a large brass plaque that read:

GRACE CHURCH
GRATEFULLY RECORDS THAT
THIS PEW
IN WHICH HE SAT FOR MANY YEARS
WAS GIVEN TO THE PARISH IN 1912
BY THE HONOURABLE LEVI PARSONS MORTON
SOMETIME VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
AND GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK

I refer to the plaque in the past tense because it's gone. It could be that it fell off during the pew removal and will turn up in a corner somewhere. Or it could be that a souvenir hunter pilfered it and plans to sell it (note to eBay shoppers: please keep an eye out for it). In any case, if the plaque is lost for good we'll replace it with a new one; fortunately we have a picture of it so we can duplicate the likeness. In the meantime, when you next occupy one of these old pews, and struggle to keep your back straight while kneeling, know that all sorts and conditions of people - high and low, rich and poor, young and old - have been there before you in the presence of Almighty God, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

See you in church.

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

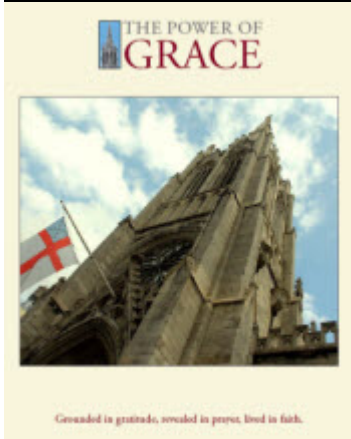
6:00 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Linda Bartholomew

Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

The Power of Grace - Capital Campaign



During the first half of 2012 we are involved in a capital campaign to raise faith and funds towards the completion of the current phase of interior restoration and the installation of the new pipe organ.

Read *Frequently Asked Questions* (about the interior restoration) and *The Power of Grace* (about the campaign) by clicking on the image of the brochure at left.

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

Announcements

SUNDAY MARCH 25

THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - LECTIO DIVINA The Rev. Ted Pardoe will lead a conversation about this longstanding Christian practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer. It is a way to approach the Bible, not as a text to be studied, but as the Living Word. Origen, in the 3rd century, described lectio divina as viewing "Scripture as a sacrament" to deepen our relationship with Christ. Held in Tuttle Hall; coffee and refreshments are served.

LENTEN LUNCHEON SERIES 12:30 PM - We conclude our group discussion series on *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth* by Richard Foster. Join us today as we explore Worship, led by Richard Limato. As we prepare to enter Easter week, this last session of the series will expand your understanding of worship, including steps to take and the fruits of worship. 12:30-1:45 pm in the Reception Room; soup and bread lunch will be served.

20s30s FOURTH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP is cancelled this week. We will resume on Sunday April 22nd with dinner following the 6 pm service at Village Taverna, located at 81 University Place at 11th St. For more information, contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.



EASTER FLOWER OFFERINGS - The beauty of Grace Church is enhanced each year at Easter time by generous donations from our parishioners. You may use an Easter flower envelope to offer your cash or check (made payable to Grace Church, memo line: flowers), and place it in the collection plate, the wooden box in the Parish House hallway, or the mail to Grace Church. You may also donate online [HERE](#) (scroll down to FLOWERS). We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount you can give. Thank you! *For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Easter bulletin, it must be received by Palm Sunday, 4/1.*

CANTERBURY DOWNTOWN (at Church of the Ascension) will sponsor a Lenten meditation on the theme of light and darkness in the spiritual/psychological journey. *Out of Darkness Into Light* will be led by Krystyna Sanderson, psychoanalyst and visual artist, on Sunday, March 25 at 7 pm at the Church of the Ascension, Fifth Ave and 10th St. For more information contact the Rev. Mary Cat Young at chaplain.nyc@gmail.com.

COMING SOON

PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK & EASTER - For a comprehensive listing of all services and programs, please click on the image of the brochure at left.

APR 7- EASTER DECORATING On Sat., April 7, from 1:30-3 pm you are invited to be part of the crew which will transform the Church and the newly restored sanctuary to a place of Easter glory. Many hands make light work! To help with our planning of tasks and refreshments, *we ask you to RSVP to Ellen McElduff at ellenmcelduff@aol.com as soon as you can.*

APR 7, MAY 27-THE NEXT DATES FOR BAPTISM are Saturday evening, April 7th at the Easter Vigil and the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 27th at the 11 am service. Please try to work your family plans around these dates. For information, please contact The Rev. Ted Pardoe at tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org.

APR 13 - THE CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA OF GRACE CHURCH under the direction of John Maclay, will present the Verdi Requiem on Friday, April 13th at 8 pm sharp. Due to ongoing renovation work at Grace, the concert will take place at Saint Thomas Church, 5th Ave at 53rd St. Tickets cost \$25 and are available for purchase at www.thechoralsociety.org.

YOUTH & FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION - All Sunday School children who wish to participate in a grand procession at the beginning of the 11 am service should come to Tuttle Hall at 10:45 am on April 1st. Parents are welcome to march with their children. Parents who are not marching: please be sure your children know where to find you in the church after the procession ends.

EASTER EVE WALK - Join us on Holy Saturday, April 7th from 10:30 am-1:30 pm, as we experience the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord through interactive storytelling. There will also be crafts, treats, and an Easter egg hunt! Activities are designed for kids ages 4 and up, but the whole family is welcome. Suggestion donation is \$10. *To attend, RSVP to Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org. To help, please see below!*

EASTER EVE WALK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES! Your help in making this year's Easter Eve Walk a joyous occasion for all is greatly needed! If you are able to offer your time, gifts or talents, please contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org to sign up for any of the following:

Candy and Cupcake Drive - We are seeking donations of candy, 100 undecorated cupcakes, frosting, and cupcake decorations for the kids to enjoy. Candy will be used for goody bags and our egg hunt. Donations will be collected throughout Holy Week.

Assistance with set-up, crafts, hiding eggs, clean-up, and more! Lots of help is needed for both the day before (Friday, April 6th, from 3-6 pm) and the day of the Walk (Saturday, April 7th from 10 am-2 pm). Come participate in all the fun!

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN on Tuesday, April 10th (4:30 pm) and continue for 6 weeks in preparation for the bishop's visit on Sunday May 20th. If your child is in 7th-12th grade and is interested in being confirmed, *please email Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org to sign up.*

PARISH LIFE

2012 ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN - NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD We have less than \$40,000 to go towards our goal of \$1 million in Annual Fund pledges! If you have not yet pledged, please contact Brian Hagan, Director of Development, at bhagan@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000 x119. To make a pledge online, click [HERE](#) scroll down to ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN, click DONATE and go from there.

DID YOU MISS A SERMON?

Click below to read or listen to a sermon

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