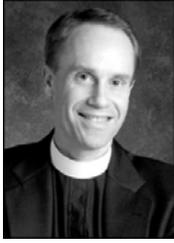


THE WEEKLY EPISTLE
The Third Sunday in Lent
March 11, 2012
GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK



Dear Friends,

At last week's Sunday Forum, the Rev. Stephen Arbogast gave the first of a two-part series entitled, "The Sociology of our Faith." Stephen was explaining how conversion experiences are not the norm. Most often, people embrace as adults what "hooked" them as children. Madison Avenue knows this well; in order to create loyal, lifelong customers, companies aim to reach people even as teenagers, if not before.

The application for us in the church should be clear. If we want our children to embrace the Christian faith as adults, then it's never too soon to begin engaging them with the message of the gospel. This is hard work. It involves modeling active participation in the church, saying grace over meals, praying together before bed, being generous, respecting the dignity of every human being, and talking with each other about matters of faith.

Sometimes we think that the best approach is never to impose your will on what your child might believe about God. But imagine if we failed to impose our will when it came to education, nutrition, bedtime, and choice of friends. No good parent would think of it. So why would we abdicate responsibility for who claims the soul of our children? May God bless us all in the struggle to keep the faith and share it too.

See you in church. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead on Saturday night.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

Schedule of Services

9:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Wood

Music: The Parish Choir

11:00 am

Morning Prayer, Rite I and Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Wood

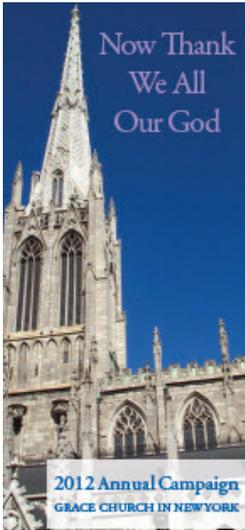
Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

6:00 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Wood

Music: Hymns with instrumentalists



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 have less than \$60,000 to go towards our goal of \$1 million in Annual Fund pledges! If you have not made your pledge, please do so today.

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 MARCH 11

THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - THE SOCIOLOGY OF OUR FAITH: WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US AS A COMMUNITY? Led by the Rev. Stephen Arbogast, chair of the Department of Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics at Trinity School, this is an opportunity to learn more about what others consider to be important indicators of being faithful people in America today. *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*, by Robert Putnam (author of *Bowling Alone*) and David Campbell, presents findings from a massive amount of data collection about the relationship of religion and society today. We'll look at the specific findings related to the Episcopal Church, unpacking implications for those of us who are Episcopalians in New York City. Held in Tuttle Hall; coffee and refreshments are served. **MAR 18 EXPLORING EPHEBUS: TRADITIONS IN TEXT AND STONE** with General Theological Seminary faculty members, Dr. Deirdre Good and The Rev. Katherine Shanor. **MAR 25 LECTIO DIVINA** with The Rev. Ted Pardoe.

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) in the 3rd fl conference room. 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. Questions? E-mail Co-chair Helen DuBois at hwdub@verizon.net.

LENTEN LUNCHEON SERIES 12:30 PM We continue our group discussion series on *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth* by Richard Foster. A soup and bread lunch will be served. Sundays in Lent, through 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 this week 3/11 as we explore Service. Discover the difference between true service and self-righteous service. Learn about the limits and boundaries to service. Next week 3/18: What is submission and what are its limits?

20s30s PRACTICING PRAYER WITH PURPOSE 7PM - (See 20s30s LENTEN PROGRAMS below.)

20s30s SECOND SUNDAY BRUNCH - Join us for our monthly 20s30s brunch at Chat N Chew at 10 East 16th St between Union Square West and 5th Ave at 12:45 pm. Meet Emily Schell in Tuttle Hall at 12:30 pm where she will gather the group and lead us to the restaurant. You can identify Emily by the red rose pin she'll be wearing.

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 at www.gracechurchnyc.org (click GIVE, 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.*

COMING SOON

20s30s LENTEN PROGRAMS - FRIDAYS & SUNDAYS IN LENT The 20s30s group is planning two programs to promote reflection and fellowship. Join us for our SUSHI FRIDAY dinners every Friday during Lent: *This week we will meet at Friend House located at 106 3rd Ave at 13th Street at 7 pm. RSVP to Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org by Thursday March 15th.* **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. You may attend all sessions, or just drop in for one or two. This program will take the place of 4th Sunday Fellowship during Lent. Please contact Kim at krowles@gts.edu with any questions.

MAR 14, 21, 28 - CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE AND THE WAY The Rev. Sarah Anne Wood will lead a discussion on Christian pilgrimage by way of the Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James), and the Emilio Estevez directed film *The Way*. Take a few Wednesdays in Lent to view the film together and take part in theological reflection and discussion on the subject of pilgrimage as well as this filmmaker's take on such a spiritual enterprise. Wednesdays 3/14, 3/21 & 3/28 at 7 pm (directly after 6 pm Holy Eucharist).

MAR 18 THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - EXPLORING EPHEBUS: TRADITIONS IN TEXT AND STONE The city of Ephesus, which figures prominently in the earliest Christian literature, will provide a site for exploration about the people, places, and practice of the nascent church. The class will be led by General Theological Seminary faculty members, Dr. Deirdre Good and The Rev. Katherine Shanor, who will use biblical texts and archeological evidence to give an introduction to Ephesus and its rich historical and theological associations. Held in Tuttle Hall; coffee and refreshments are served.

In early 2013, Professors Good and Shanor will be leading a tour to Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), exploring both the urban contexts out of which early Christianity was shaped and some of the spaces in which Christianity grew to prominence. Through visits to ancient cities, archaeological sites, as well as contemporary museums and landmarks, they will examine the historical and cultural context in which the earliest Christians and their writings emerged. For more information, visit www.gts.edu/turkey2013.

MAR 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.

MAR 25 - CANTERBURY DOWNTOWN will sponsor a Lenten meditation by Krystyna Sanderson, psychoanalyst and visual artist, *Out of Darkness Into Light*, on Sunday, March 25 at 7 pm. The event, which will explore the theme of light and darkness in the spiritual/psychological journey, will be held at the Church of the Ascension, Fifth Ave and 10th St, following the 6 pm service. For more information contact the Rev. Mary Cat Young at chaplain.nyc@gmail.com.

APR 1 - SPECIAL CHORAL MUSICAL OFFERINGS for Palm Sunday at 11 am: The Liturgy of the Palms, Reading of the Passion and Choral Eucharist. Works by J.B. Faure and others will be offered by The Choir of Men and Boys. At 4 pm: Selections from Handel's MESSIAH Part II, Choral Evensong offered by the Adult Choir.

APR 7 - EASTER EVE WALK - Mark your calendars for this year's Walk on Saturday April 7th from 10:30am-1:30pm, where children and families are invited to experience the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord through interactive storytelling. There will be crafts, treats, and an Easter egg hunt! Activities are designed for ages 4 and up, but the whole family is welcome. To attend or for ways to volunteer, please contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

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 - 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.

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

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 brochure (about the campaign) [HERE](#).

DID YOU MISS A SERMON?

Click below to read or listen to a sermon

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