

THE WEEKLY EPISTLE
The Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 20, 2012
GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK



Dear Friends,

I have been teaching youth confirmation classes for upwards of 25 years now, and I can honestly say that I never know what sinks in and what does not. Last Tuesday I stumbled upon an idea that I thought might work for our class of six 7th graders that Maura Hooper and I have been working with since Easter. With the bishop's coming this week, I wanted to convey something of the continuity that he represents, stretching back through the centuries to Jesus himself. We call this continuity the "apostolic succession," and the outward and visible sign is the "historic episcopate," that is, a person consecrated to stand within the apostolic succession: a bishop.

On Tuesday the eight of us (six students, two teachers) took hands and tried to see if we could stretch ourselves the length of the Reception Room. I asked the students to imagine that the first person in line was holding onto a sturdy tree - the tree of life - that represents Jesus. Each succeeding person in line stood for a different era in the life of the church. One generation clasped hands with another until we arrived at the last person, who was left with one hand free. This is the church today. What are we supposed to do with our free hand? I asked the students to imagine that the whole purpose of the line was to pluck a drowning person out of a raging river. The world needs saving, and we in the church have the audacity to believe that we are God's instrument for doing so.

Sometimes the world needs a consoling back rub. Sometimes instead of an urgent saving hand, people are drawn into the fellowship of the redeemed with a gentler touch. So I asked the students all to face in one direction, and then simultaneously administer a shoulder massage to the person next in line. Once again, it begins with Jesus and spreads through every generation, until arriving at us today. Sometimes the mission of the church is to reach out to a bruised and battered world with hands that bind up the broken hearted. At other times it is a hand that saves. At all times it is to be anchored in Jesus.

At the 11 am service this Sunday the newly consecrated Bishop Coadjutor of New York, Andrew Dietsche, will be here to confirm this year's class of youth and adult candidates. The outward and visible sign will be the laying on of his hands. The inward and spiritual grace will be the continuity with Jesus, and the strength of the Holy Spirit to reach bravely into the world.

Did the image sink in with our 7th graders? One never knows! It works for me, and I hope, perhaps for you.

See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

9:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe

Music: The Parish Choir

11:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Sermon

Sermon: The Rt. Rev. Andrew M. L. Dietsche

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys with the Girls' Choir

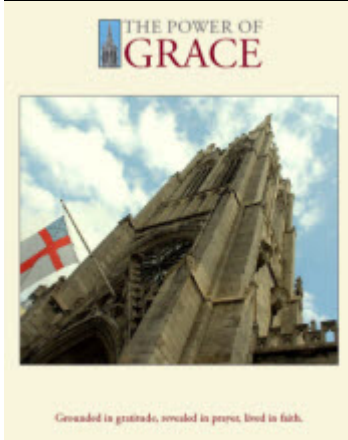
6:00 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe

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.

UPDATE: *The Power of Grace* documentary video is now posted to our home page. If you haven't already made your capital campaign pledge, please click [HERE](#) to watch the video (only 12 minutes long) and then respond with a generous pledge that can be fulfilled over three years. Pledge cards are in the mail, and also available in the narthex and the Parish House hallway. We aim to have all pledges in by Sunday, June 3 when we will announce how close we have come to our goal of \$2.5 million. We are well on our way but need your help. Together, we can do this!

SUNDAY MAY 20

WELCOME TO THE RT. REV. ANDREW DIETSCHKE - Bishop Dietsche, elected Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of New York last November and consecrated in March, is with us at the 11 am service to preach, confirm, and celebrate the Eucharist. If you wish to offer a gift in thanksgiving for the Bishop's visit, you may use "The Bishops' Discretionary Funds" envelopes found today in the narthex, the Reception Room and the hallway of the Parish House. The envelope may be placed in the collection plate, or handed to any usher. Please join in giving a hearty Grace Church welcome to Bishop Dietsche and his wife Margaret at a festive reception following the 11 am service.

MAY 20 - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - A LOOK AT OUR DIOCESE - with the Rt. Rev. Andrew M. L. Dietsche, Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of New York. Bishop Dietsche will speak on the challenges and opportunities of his new role within the context of a changing church. He will address how the community of Grace Church relates to both the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the national church as a whole. There will be time for questions and answers following the presentation. *NOTE: Held in the Reception Room today; coffee is served.*

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CHOIRS' ANNUAL JUNE RAFFLE to benefit the Choir Special Projects Fund! You can purchase a raffle ticket from any choir family or chorister (or at coffee hour this Sunday). The raffle includes many amazing items. This fund supports activities and opportunities for the choirs that are not covered by the annual budget including such projects as the upcoming tour to Prague, Vienna and Salzburg. Tickets are \$5 and \$10. Winners will be selected on June 10th. Thank you for all your prayers and support.

TODAY - ECW/GRACE CHURCH FOOD DRIVE BAGS! In order to promote and encourage offerings to our ongoing food collection at Grace Church, the ECW will sell reusable shopping bags for \$5 each at coffee hour today. The ECW hopes that having this handy bag will remind us all to fill it up and bring it to church! You may arrange to purchase bags by contacting Cathy Minuse at minuse@aol.com.

COMING SOON

MAY 24 - 20s30s GAME NIGHT AT ST. BART'S - Join 20s30s groups from all over the city for a game night, hosted by St. Bart's at Park Ave and 51st St. The evening is BYOB and will include a pizza dinner. A donation of \$10 per person is suggested. *RSVP to Maura Hooper by Friday May 18th at* mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

JUNE 1 - NEW! WEEKLY JUNG DISCUSSION GROUP "...giving an interpretation to each according to his dream." --Genesis 41:12 In both the sacred and secular worlds, Carl Jung introduced some illuminating ideas, incorporating dream reflection, synchronicity, the collective unconscious and seeming "coincidence" to help us bring meaningful interpretation and expression to our daily lives. Beginning on Friday, June 1st, this new group will meet weekly for discussion, reflection and prayer from 8:30-9:30 am, in the Reception room. If you are interested, please attend our first gathering on June 1st or contact either The Rev. Sarah Wood at swood@gcschool.org or Dr. Krystyna Sanderson at Dr.KrystynaSanderson@gmail.com to discuss your intentions for work with this group.

JUNE 3 - YOUTH & FAMILY SUMMER KICK OFF PARTY WITH MISS MAURA - Families, mark your calendars for Sunday June 3rd from 1-3:00 pm for a final get together before we all leave for the summer! All youth and families are welcome! Donations of food and beverage are welcome. Details to follow. Contact Maura Hooper for more information at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

JUNE 8, 9 - THE WILLOW ENSEMBLE, under the artistic direction of Timothy Emerson, will hold its annual chamber music concerts on Friday and Saturday, June 8/9 at 8 pm in the Chantry. The program will feature our own Patrick Allen playing the chamber organ. Music selections will include Telemann's Quartet in D minor (for bassoon, oboe, flute, and basso continuo), Poulenc's Sextet for Piano and Winds, two Soprano Arias from Susannah (by Carlisle Floyd), and the Schumann Piano Quintet. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at the door or reserved in advance by sending your full name, the date of the concert you wish to attend, and the number of seats you'll need, to emerst@gmail.com.

JUNE 10 - THE ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC AND CHOIR RECOGNITION SUNDAY - All Grace Church parishioners and friends are welcome and encouraged to come to Huntington Close following the 11am service! Join us as we celebrate the choir ministries of Grace Church and bring our program year to a joyous and festive close!

MUSIC

BRAVO! 10 NEW SENIOR CHORISTERS ELEVATED LAST SUNDAY, May 13th at the 11 am service. Congratulations to our newest Senior Choristers who have been leading with strength and joy in the Junior Chorister services, rehearsals and concert this year! **BOYS:** Stephen Carr, Julius Dunn, Nicolas Hurley, Miles McCain, Zo Williams. **GIRLS:** Catherine Cheung, Constance Gooding, Nina Houston, Camilla McGarry, Eden Sherrod.



DID YOU MISS A SERMON?

Click below to read or listen to a sermon

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

Contact Information

info@gracechurchnyc.org

www.gracechurchnyc.org