THE WEEKLY EPISTLE The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday May 27, 2012 GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK

Dear Friends,

I have often thought that the interior restoration of Grace Church can be a helpful metaphor of the spiritual restoration that God wants to accomplish in you and me. The whole thrust of the Bible is the story of God's seeking out, finding, and restoring his lost creation to the image he originally intended for it. In the Gospels Jesus tells parables about lost sheep, lost children, and lost coins being found and restored. Throughout his three year ministry Jesus restored sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, health to the sick, and life to the dead.

It was about six years ago, when Grace Church School was building the new gymnasium underneath Huntington Close. A room in what we call the Choristers Tower was to be repurposed, and workers were ripping up some floorboards. There, to the astonishment of all, they found six gothic pinnacles, exquisitely carved out of pure white marble. Why were these works of art under the floor boards? Who put them there, and how long ago? Clearly they belonged over at the church, but where? Until we had answers to these questions, we simply put bubble wrap around the pinnacles and stored them in the archives.

The most likely location for the pinnacles was the reredos - the ornate marble and mosaic decorative feature behind the high altar. We began looking at early pictures of the reredos, and saw that six pinnacles did indeed rise between the gables that contain the mosaics of the four Evangelists. Strangely, by about 1960 the pinnacles no longer appear in the pictures. For some reason they were removed. Over the years various vandals have broken into the church and done damage to the altar. Perhaps such a person accounts for the fall of the pinnacles.

Now fast forward the clock to this year. In order to restore the Te Deum window that rises above the altar, it was necessary for access to remove the top portions of the reredos. After Easter, when the window was complete, it was time to rebuild the pieces we'd removed. One day a tall ladder was near an empty place where the pinnacles used to be. On a whim I fetched one from the archives, carried it up the ladder, and behold: it was a perfect fit. Five of the six pinnacles are now back in their prominent place atop the reredos. The sixth was badly damaged and is being re-carved.

Think about it: for over fifty years these beautiful things were lost, forgotten, in the dark, in the dirt. They were so lost we didn't even know they were missing. Sadly, we live in a world where the same can be said about many people. The image of God is barely a vestige in them. If you happen to be living through a spell when you are painfully aware of how far we have fallen from God's intentions for us, take hope. Come look at the restored pinnacles of the reredos. They speak of God's plan of salvation: that things - and people - which were cast down can be raised up, that things which had grown old can be made new, and that all things can be restored to their perfection by and through Jesus.

See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring Rector



9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Wood Music: The Parish Choir

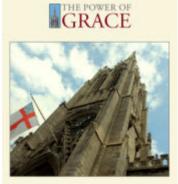
11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Wood Music: The Adult Choir

6:00 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Wood Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

The Power of Grace - Capital Campaign



Grounded in gratitude, revealed in prayer, lived in faith.

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 <u>HERE</u> 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 27

THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - is on recess until September. The Adult Education Committee welcomes your ideas for future Forum topics. You may e-mail them to Anne Rieselbach at rieselbach@yahoo.com or Emma Presler at emmabutterfieldpresler@gmail.com.

9-12 YEAR OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL meets today during the 11 am service in the McKitrick Room, just off Tuttle Hall. Children will exit the service during the hymn with the younger children and will return for Communion.

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.

COMING SOON

MAY 31 - ECW PARISH WIDE MEETING on Thursday, May 31st at 6:30 in the Reception Room. "No Pressure" light bite pot luck. Our last meeting before the summer. We will be making cards for soldiers abroad!

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 - FAREWELL TO THE REV. TED PARDOE - Ted will preach at all three services next Sunday, his last with us before assuming his responsibilities as Rector of St. Barnabas Church, Greenwich the very next day. We will celebrate Ted's ministry among us with a festive reception following the 11 am service.

JUNE 3 - YOUTH & FAMILY SUMMER KICK OFF PARTY WITH MISS MAURA - Grace Church 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! Join us for live music, games, and some delicious nibbles. All youth and families are welcome! RSVP by Thursday May 31st to Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

JUNE 4 - OUTREACH MONDAY PRAYER SERVICE & POTLUCK SUPPER Please join our last meeting with the Rev. Linda Bartholomew, and for the season, on Monday, June 4th at 6:30 pm. Bring a dish or a drink to share. Enter through the 802 Broadway door. Please bring non-perishable food for neighborhood food pantries as well, if you are able. *RSVP to outreach@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! There will be a suggested donation at the door of \$10 per person to help offset our costs. For more information, contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

DID YOU MISS A SERMON?

Click below to read or listen to a sermon

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