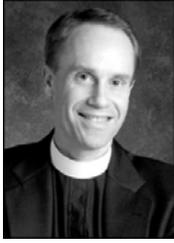


THE WEEKLY EPISTLE
The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 29, 2012
GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK



Dear Friends,

One of the world's most recognizable monuments is Stonehenge, located in the south of England near Salisbury. I've never been there myself, but certainly hope to see it someday. Stonehenge is a prehistoric collection of massive stone blocks arranged in a circle. It is now in ruins, and has been for longer than any recorded witness of it. Nevertheless, even the untrained eye looking at a photograph of Stonehenge today can imagine what it must have looked like when it was new. Something else we can only imagine is how it was used. Why was it built, and for what purpose? Archeologists speculate that it may have been a burial ground, or a large sundial, or a temple of some sort, or perhaps all three and more. The truth is, we just don't know.

Likewise, I have often wondered what the great river of people flowing past Grace Church thinks about the assembly of stones at 10th and Broadway. In our secular day and age, people know it's a church, but do they really understand how it is used? Why was it built, and what is its purpose?

Let us be clear that the purpose of the church is to praise the living God, and raise people up to experience the presence and power of God through Jesus. Sometimes we have to break from our normal routine so that people can hear us in a new way. This coming Sunday, especially at the 11 am service, our aim will be to uphold and celebrate what happens inside these walls, and why. We will see a great procession of banners that speak to the abundance of ministry at Grace Church, and then six people will share how those ministries have been channels of God's grace that have transformed their lives.

Stonehenge is in ruins. Grace Church is not. As we seek to raise funds to pay for the interior restoration of the stone, stained glass, and plaster around us, it is vital that we understand why this building is here in the first place, what God intends to do with it and through it, and how we can all be a part of it. I am looking forward to a unique Sunday morning. Don't miss it!

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

Schedule of Services

9:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring and Lay Witnesses
Music: The Parish Choir

11:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Sermon

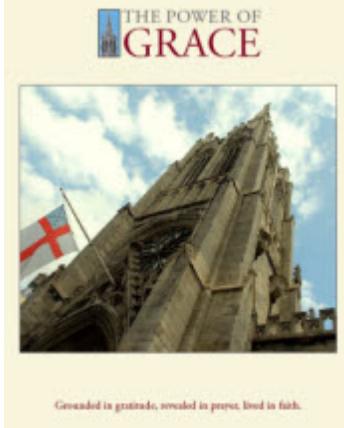
Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring and Lay Witnesses
Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

6:00 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry

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

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 APRIL 29

MINISTRY AWARENESS SUNDAY - Today we celebrate the power of God's grace at Grace Church. At the 9 and 11 am services we will hear, as part of the sermon, six members of the congregation give witness to the power of God's grace in their lives, especially as they have experienced it at Grace Church. Also at 11 am we will enjoy a great procession of banners that have been created to increase our awareness of the many ministries at Grace Church that have been channels of God's transformative power. Special thanks to Joe Budenholzer, Abby Carr, Singleton Cox, Dana Foote, Dana Newman, and Matt Schneiderman for their witnesses. Thanks also to Lee Chamberlin, Sarah Cogan, Amee Shah and Maura Hooper for banner design and creation.

THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - MISSION TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA - Grace Church parishioners have made six mission trips to New Orleans, but are now turning their attention to McDowell County, West Virginia, where many homes have been destroyed by flooding in the past decade. McDowell County has a 40% unemployment rate, over 50% of its people exist on income below poverty level, and their students rank last in the state in test scores. Come and hear about why we are going and what we will do there. Led by parishioner and New Orleans mission trip veteran, Mike Watson. Held in Tuttle Hall; coffee is served.

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 starting Sunday, April 29th at coffee hour after the 11 am service. The ECW hopes that having this handy bag will remind us all to fill it up and bring it to church! You may also arrange to purchase bags by contacting Cathy Minuse at minuse@aol.com.

COMING SOON

MAY 3 - RELIGION AND AMERICAN POLITICS - THE MORMON DIFFERENCE! The ECW of Grace Church invites all Grace Church women to attend this lecture by The Rev. Stephen Arbogast. The American domestic political scene has been influenced by religion since its beginning. One of the newest chapters in this story is the influence of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In some ways, the Mormon contribution to the narrative rests comfortably along well-traveled paths familiar to other religious groups while in other ways, the Mormon experience is unique. Don't miss this chance to learn a little about those similarities and those differences - on Thursday, May 3rd at 6:30 pm in the Reception Room. Refreshments will be served.

MAY 6 - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - T.S. Eliot's *Burnt Norton* led by Nicholas Birns, PhD, Associate Professor, The New School. The first of T. S. Eliot's famed *Four Quartets*, speaks of "the Word in the desert" withstanding 'voices of temptation.' We will read aloud and discuss Eliot's meditation on how to live a Christian life within the "turning world." **MAY 13 - SEVENTEENTH CENTURY MEDITATION:**

FORMAL AND HOMELY with Diana Benet, Ph.D. MAY 20 - A LOOK AT OUR DIOCESE with the Rev. Canon Andrew M. L. Dietsche.

MAY 7 - OUTREACH MONDAY POTLUCK SUPPER will take place on Monday, May 7th. We will meet in the Reception Room (come through the 802 door) from 6:30-8:00 pm. Please bring a dish to share if you care to, otherwise just your concern for the poor and the homeless of the city. Contact Linda Bartholomew lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org for more information.

MAY 9 - SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY Come join the conversation about Jesus' Last Discourse in John's Gospel (chapters 14-17). Three Wednesday evenings at 7 pm (directly after Wednesday 6 pm Holy Eucharist) in the Reception Room. May 9, 16 & 23. Led by the Rev. Ted Pardoe

MAY 10 - "THE POWER OF GRACE" CELEBRATION will be held on Huntington Close (Broadway and 10th St.) on Thursday, May 10, from 7- 9 p.m. You are invited to an evening of cocktails and refreshments, capped by the premiere of a short film "The Power of Grace," celebrating God's grace in the lives of the Grace Church community. *All in the Grace Church community are invited and welcome, however you must RSVP by Monday, May 7 to gracechurchsvp@gmail.com to be added to the guest list.*

MAY 10 - LAW DAY CHORAL EVENSONG - ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL - The Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk, Bishop of New York, invites you to celebrate the presentation of the Servant of Justice Award to Cecil Wray, Esq. and to honor all members of the Bar and Bench in recognition of their vocation. Thursday, May 10 at 6 pm at St. Paul's Chapel, Broadway and Fulton Street. Reception follows in the New York County Lawyers' Association. *RSVP by May 8 to the Rev. Richard Sloan at 212-316-7427 or rsloan@diocesenyc.org.*

MAY 13 - 20s30s SECOND SUNDAY BRUNCH at French Roast at 11th Street and 6th Ave, following the 11am service. RSVP to Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

PARISH LIFE

THE POWER OF GRACE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE

- April 29: Ministry Awareness Sunday
- April 30 - May 2: Advance Gifts Cocktail Parties
- May 10: Parish-wide celebration on Huntington Close
- May 12: Prayer Vigil
- May 13: Commitment Sunday

The goal of the campaign is to raise faith and funds towards the restoration of the church interior and installation of the new organ. More information will follow in this space.

HAVE AN HOUR TO SPARE? JOIN THE POWER OF GRACE VOLUNTEER TEAM! We need lots of hands to help with mailings and other tasks associated with the campaign this Spring. If you have been thinking about how you might pitch in, here is a great opportunity to give a small amount of time to a project, yet make a big impact! Even an hour or two of your time would be most gratefully received. Contact Brian Hagan at bhagan@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000 x119.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE REV. STEPHEN ARBOGAST, who has accepted a call to be the Senior Chaplain and Chair of the Religious Studies Department of the National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C. Stephen currently serves as Chair of the Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics Department at Trinity School in NYC, and has been Assisting Priest at Grace Church for the past several years.
CONGRATULATIONS

DID YOU MISS A SERMON?

Click below to read or listen to a sermon

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