

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City

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Volunteers!](#)


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If you are interested in growing more deeply into the life of the church through the sharing of your particular gifts, please speak with any of our members of clergy, or contact the [parish office](#). We are happy to train you, and delighted to hear from you!

Sunday, September 16, 2012

The 16th Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday is Volunteer Appreciation Sunday, and I want to anticipate the day by saying something I wish I had said over forty years ago: Thank you, Doris MacAvoy. The odds are you've never heard of Doris MacAvoy because I am almost certain that she died long ago and dwells in the greater light of God's kingdom. But she was my Sunday School teacher when I was in the 2nd grade, and I remember her. Mind you now, I don't really remember anything Miss MacAvoy taught us, but I still fondly recall her wise, gentle, patient presence in a room full of 7-year old hooligans. She was an elderly woman (of course, everyone looks elderly when you are 7), and she was in the beginning stages of MS or Parkinson's disease. Nevertheless, she volunteered year after year, and I for one am grateful for her Christian witness. Thank you, Miss MacAvoy!

We never know the effect we may have on someone else. We may think that a conversation we have, or a piece of advice we give, or a moral example we set may not matter much in the grand scheme of things, but then learn later on that some little thing we did or said actually had a profound influence on someone else. Being a volunteer at the church can be like that; you may not think that hosting a coffee hour, serving on a committee, or singing in the choir is a big deal now. But never underestimate how the Holy Spirit may take the time and the talent you give and inspire a lasting good influence in someone near by. So thank you, Grace Church volunteers, one and all!

How about teaching Sunday School? Our new Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Melissa Spindler, is hosting a brief meeting this Sunday in the Reception Room at 10:15 am for everyone interested in the ministry of our Sunday School. Parents and potential teachers, please drop in, even

if it's only to sign up as a "Snack Angel." Who knows: the cookies you bring may be devoured in an instant, but remembered with gratitude for years to come.

See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

This Sunday, September 16th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite I

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

2ND ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SUNDAY! Join us at the 11 am service, and during coffee hour, as we recognize and celebrate the many good souls who give generously of their time and talents to help make possible all that we do at Grace Church.

THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - MCDOWELL COUNTY WV: MISSION AND MINISTRY with Win Chamberlin and Currie Estreich. This summer a group from Grace Church traveled to McDowell County, West Virginia, working with an ecumenical outreach ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of WV to repair two seriously damaged homes. McDowell County is one of the poorest areas in the country with 72% of the households having no working adult. The removal of mountaintops by mining operations and tree removal by timber companies has caused snow melt to flood the only level ground for homes. Learn about the group's experiences and their hopes for an ongoing yearly outreach to the diminished and desperate population that remains in this once thriving coal-mining district.

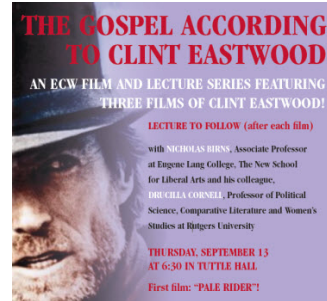
20s30s SECOND SUNDAY BRUNCHES resume today! (Just for this month, the brunch actually takes place on the third Sunday). Meet us in Tuttle Hall or join us at the restaurant. We will dine at JACK Bistro, 80 University Place. RSVP is required to Melissa at mspindler@gracechurchnyc.org.

Coming Soon

SEPT 19 - WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY RESUMES its weekly

Wednesday morning sessions on Sept. 19. *The group will now meet from 11 am to 12:30 pm* (formerly 10-11:30), in the Reception Room under the leadership of the Rev. Sarah Wood. For more information, contact Sarah at swood@gracechurchnyc.org.

SEPT 20, 27 - "THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO CLINT EASTWOOD" CONTINUES - an ECW-sponsored film and lecture series featuring three films of Clint Eastwood! Each is followed by a talk with Nicholas Birns, Associate Professor at Eugene Lang College, The New School for Liberal Arts and his colleague, Drucilla Cornell, *Professor of Political*



Science, Comparative Literature and Women's Studies at Rutgers University. This event is open to parishioners and friends aged 18 and over. Wine, popcorn and beverages will be served. On 9/20: "UNFORGIVEN" 9/27: "GRAN TORINO" 6:30 in Tuttle Hall. A fee of \$10 per person will be charged to cover expenses. \$20 per person for all 3 Thursdays! For more info contact elanafoundos@gmail.com.

SEPT 23 - 20s30s FOURTH SUNDAY DINNER & FELLOWSHIP -

Add the 4th Sunday evening of each month to your calendar! Then come to Grace for the Sunday 6 pm service and stay afterwards to connect with other 20s30s folks over dinner and drinks at a nearby restaurant. Send questions to mispindler@gracechurchnyc.org.

SEPT 25 - OPEN DOOR MINISTRY FALL MEETING & RECEPTION!

Open Door volunteers new and old are invited to celebrate and launch the new season on Tuesday, Sept 25 from 7-9 pm in the Reception Room. (Newcomers interested in volunteering are very welcome!) The Open Door Ministry seeks to provide a welcoming presence at the door of Grace Church to greet visitors, answer questions, and offer walking tours. Volunteers are only asked to help 2 hours per month. If you are looking for a way to share your time and talent with Grace, meet new people and have fun too, please join us to learn more! RSVP to Singleton Cox at singleton.cox@gmail.com by Friday, September 21st.

SEPT 30 - FAMILY COMMUNION CLASS IN THE CHANTRY Ever wondered what's going on during Communion? Why do we do it, and what does it mean? We'll walk our way through this act of praise and thanksgiving, asking questions and playing games along the way. All children are welcomed! (Bring your moms and dads too!) Led by the Rev. Stephen Holton and Miss Melissa.

OCT 1 - OUTREACH MONDAY - The first meeting of the season will be held in the Reception Room from 6:30-8 pm and we will welcome our new Associate Rector, the Rev.

Stephen Holton. We will also discuss our first Outreach event - serving dinner at the New York City Rescue Mission on Saturday, Oct 13, from 4-6:30 pm. We will again team up with the Episcopal Church Women, taking with us the fruit and baked goods they will provide for dessert. If you would like to be a part of this event, you may secure your spot early at outreach@gracechurchnyc.org.

OCT 3 - BOOK STUDY: MYSTERIES OF FAITH - The Rev. Sarah Wood begins a Wednesday evening book study of *Mysteries of Faith* by Mark McIntosh that will explore the central doctrines of the Christian faith. This will be an excellent way for those new to Christianity to go deeper, as well as for those more schooled in the faith to take a fresh look. 7 pm in the Reception Room on October 3, 10, 17, and 24.

OCT 14, 21, 28 - NEWCOMER CLASS - Everyone new to Grace Church in the past year is encouraged to attend a newcomer class on 3 Sundays at 12:30 pm in the Reception Room. Come to learn more about the history of Grace Church, life at Grace today, and how to connect with other parishioners and the ministries. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the Rev. Stephen Holton at sholton@gracechurchnyc.org.

OCT 20 - HARVEST HOEDOWN! Save the date! Ticket information and additional details will follow in October.

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO ALL OF OUR GRACE CHURCH VOLUNTEERS!

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