

Sunday, September 23, 2012

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

I have long believed that the first line of ministry that the people of Grace Church need to put out there is to keep the building open as many hours of the day as possible. Keeping the building open is three things, at least: hospitality, evangelism, and good stewardship.

Thousands of people walk past Grace Church every day, and when they see the big Broadway doors open, many come inside. It is a touching thing to see the number of people sitting quietly in the pews, praying through some concern in their lives, listening to an organ meditation, watching the work of restoration, or just taking a load off their feet. An open door and a place to sit in a beautiful space is the gift of hospitality. It is also evangelism. Grace Church is endowed with a palpable sense of holiness. The space itself calls people to prayer and turns their minds to God. We live in a world full of bad religion, when people of faith offer up loud, narrow, and threatening messages to an already suspicious generation. Is it any wonder why ours is an increasingly secular age? But at Grace Church, we don't have to resort to turning up the volume to get people's attention. By keeping the doors open we provide a space where the Spirit of the living God can go to work on people, and we don't even have to say a word for it to happen. Finally, the open church is good stewardship. It is using the resources God has given us for God's good purposes.

Here's the challenge: we can't simply keep the church open without staffing it in some way. We need appointed people inside to signal that the atmosphere is safe and supervised, and to answer any questions that tourists or pilgrims may ask. Most of the time we see to it that a maintenance person is in the church. At other times a ministry of volunteers takes over. The Open Door Ministry is a group of Grace Church parishioners who give of their time - usually in two-hour blocks - to be in the space and provide a welcoming presence. We need more volunteers for the Open Door Ministry. If you are interested in hearing more, come to a gathering this coming Tuesday, September 25, at 7 pm in the Reception Room. We'll have refreshments and information about how to serve. If you can't make it on Tuesday but would like to know more, send me an email at dwaring@gracechurchnyc.org and I will connect you with the organizers. Think about the Open Door Ministry as our first order of business. It is hospitality, evangelism, and good stewardship.

See you in church

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

This Sunday, September 23th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite I

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Girls' Choir with Adults

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

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Wood

Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - ANSWERING THE CALL: OUTREACH AND SERVICE The Rev. Stephen C. Holton. Our newly-called Associate Rector will discuss his work and ministry

prior to coming to Grace Church, focusing on service as a spiritual practice and extension of our sacramental lives together. Prior to ordination, Stephen served as the executive director of a faith-based community center in Atlanta, Georgia. He will expand on how his love of music and an encounter with service led to his call to ordained ministry. He will also address how one's own sense of call can manifest itself. *The Sunday Forum offers both newcomers and long-time members of the parish spiritual nourishment, opportunities to get to know one another, and in-depth discussion on issues that are central to both the church and individual members. Each presentation will include time for questions and answers. Held in Tuttle Hall, coffee and refreshments will be served.*

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 mspindler@gracechurchnyc.org.

Coming Soon

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 TODAY!

SEPT 20, 27 - "THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO CLINT EASTWOOD" CONTINUES - the ECW-sponsored film and lecture series concludes with GRAND TORINO, 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*. Open to parishioners and friends aged 18 and over. Wine, popcorn and beverages will be served. \$10 per person to cover expenses.

SEPT 30 - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - CONSTANTINE'S LEGACY with Nicholas Birns, PhD, *Associate Professor, The New School*. Church and State will be the common theme running through our Forums for the next few weeks, beginning today with "Constantine's Legacy." 2013 will mark the 1700th anniversary of the Edict of Milan, under which the Roman Emperor Constantine I ended the persecution of Christians within the Roman Empire. Constantine had converted to Christianity the year before, and, in the next decade, convened and chaired the Council of Nicaea, from which we get the Nicene Creed. He was finally baptized on his deathbed. That the most powerful man in the world was now a Christian changed the course of world history. Yet many Christians have seen "Constantinianism"--the association of the church with state power--as the great bane of Christian history, rejoicing that we are now in a "post-Constantinian age." Should Constantine be a hero, a villain, or something in-between for today's Christians? (Oct 7: Holiday weekend, no class) *Church and State* continues with Oct 14: THE FAITHS OF POSTWAR PRESIDENTS, Oct 21: POLITICAL THEORY AND THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Oct 28: THE CONSTITUTION AND RELIGION.

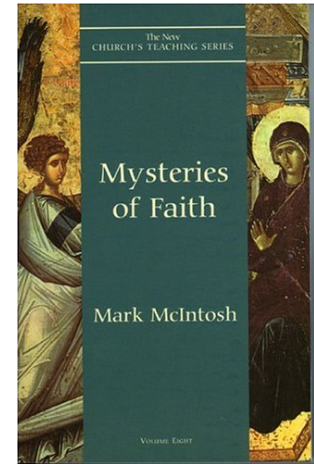
SEPT 30 - FAMILY COMMUNION CLASS IN THE CHANTRY Ever wondered what's going on during Communion? Why do we do it, and what does it mean? On Sunday, Sept 30 at 10am we'll walk our way through this act of praise and thanksgiving, asking questions and playing games along the way. All children are welcomed! (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 on Monday, Oct 1st 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 13th, 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 14 CHORAL EVENSONG - *Rejoice in the Lamb* by Benjamin Britten will be offered by The Choir of Men and Boys on Sunday, October 14th at 4 pm. The Evening Canticles will be Harold Friedell's Service in F and the Preces and Responses are as set by William Byrd.

OCT 20 - SPEND A DAY OF QUIET with the Rev. Sarah Wood and the Episcopal Church Women (ECW). Take the time to visit, rest, delve, pray, and grow! The threads of stillness, engagement, and reflection (both in group discussion and in solitude) sews the fabric of our time together. Meditation on Scripture by way of the Benedictine *Lectio Divina* and an expansion into Ignatian contemplation will be the focus of the day on Saturday, Oct 20 from 10 am to 3 pm. We will begin in the Reception Room for coffee and light refreshment. Bring a brown bag lunch. *RSVP to Elana Foundos at elanafoundos@gmail.com by Saturday, Oct 13.*

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

OUTREACH

DID YOU KNOW that the **GO PROJECT** serves over 500 elementary and middle school students each year? [The GO Project](#) needs fifty new volunteers this school year. Want to be involved? Contact Olivia Nunez at onunex@goprojectnyc.org or 347-377-2317.

PARISH LIFE

BARBARA MONROE - A memorial service for Barbara Monroe, wife of Kendyl and longtime parishioner of Grace Church, will be held in the church on Saturday, October 13 at 11 am. A reception will follow in Tuttle Hall.