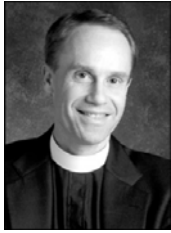


Sunday, September 30, 2012

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

Last spring, after our 18-year old cat declined and died, Stacie and I promised the boys that come the fall we would adopt two kittens. Our motivation was not only to welcome new family pets into our life, but also to help restrain the lawless wildlife population in the rectory. Moths, mice, and cockroaches abound, and conduct daring raids on private property with reckless abandon. Sometimes the cockroaches are bigger than the mice. Well, thanks to the ASPCA, help has arrived. Earlier this month we brought home two, 12-week old shelter kittens. They are brothers. One is all black, the other is black with flashes of gray. Due to the serious crime fighting task ahead we have named them Batman and Flash. These two crusaders have already dragged a number of unwilling cockroaches into the light of day, and the mice are on notice.

If you have ever spent time with two kittens, then you've undoubtedly noticed the sheer joy of being that they exude during every waking moment, and even when they are curled up together asleep. The energy, the alertness, the thrill of existence seems almost too great for their little bodies to contain. The first time they breathed in the air of a crisp autumn morning through the kitchen window we opened for them, their eyes widened with excitement as if to say, WOW!

Somewhere along the way we humans learn to take for granted what a gift from God it is to be - to share in this experience we call life. Understandable worries, concerns, and disappointments weigh us down and turn our days into a grind, a chore. I mean not to minimize the complexity and struggle of human life. At the same time it is true that we forget why God has called each one of us into being: so that God might share the divine joy of existence, and we might participate in it. Every so often something will snap us back to reality. It may be the presence of Christ through the Word and Sacrament. It may be God's goodness and love through the beauty of creation, or the love of family and friends. It may be the uncontainable joy of two kittens that reminds us that God wants us to know joy. Jesus said, "Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)

See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector



Flash & Batman - ready for action and adventure!

This Sunday, September 30th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
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

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. 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. Should Constantine be a hero, a villain, or something in-between for today's Christians?

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.

HOLY EUCHARIST TODAY AT 11 AM

Normally we celebrate the Holy Eucharist at the 11 am service on the first Sunday of each month and on major festivals. Of late we have been offering an additional Eucharist on those few months of the year when there is a fifth Sunday.

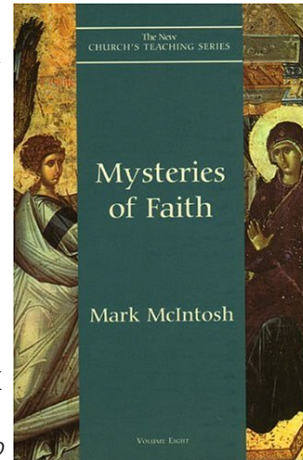
Coming Soon

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 FOUR-WEEK BOOK STUDY BEGINS

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 - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM

Church and State continues today with THE FAITHS OF POSTWAR PRESIDENTS, Oct 21: POLITICAL THEORY AND THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Oct 28: FAITH & FREEDOM. [The Sunday Forum offers spiritual nourishment, opportunities to get to know one another, and in-depth discussion on issues that are central to both the church and individuals. Each presentation will include time for questions and answers. Held in Tuttle Hall, coffee and refreshments will be served.]

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 - 20s30s SUNDAY BRUNCH

Parishioners in their 20s and 30s are invited to brunch on Sunday Oct 14th after the 11am service at Jo's, 264 Elizabeth Street, just south of Houston. Melissa will gather the group in Tuttle Hall before walking together to the restaurant. *RSVP to Melissa Spindler by Friday Oct 12th at mspindler@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 with 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!

All are welcome to join us on Saturday, October 20th, 5-8 pm for dinner, drinks, and square dancing with a professional caller. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students and \$5 for children 12 and under, and can be purchased at coffee hour through Sunday, Oct 14th or by contacting Melissa Spindler at mspindler@gracechurchnyc.org. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SET UP/CLEAN UP - Contact Melissa if you are able to come early or stay late to lend a hand!

OCTOBER 26, 27 - INTIMATE EVENINGS OF CHAMBER MUSIC - THE WILLOW ENSEMBLE

will hold its final set of concerts on Oct 26 & 27 at 8 pm in the Chantry, featuring works by *Mozart* (for Woodwind Quintet), *Haydn* (for String Quartet) and *Beethoven* (Septet for Strings and Winds). Tickets are \$20 at the door, or reserved in advance by contacting Timothy at emerst@gmail.com or (406) 861-8280 (specify name, # of tickets, concert date). These will be the last performances produced by Grace Church member, Polly Holliday. Willow thanks Polly for her tremendous support over the last 13 years.

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

It is thanks to your generosity that we are able to put God's house in order. So far 112 households have pledged for a total of \$2,377,221 towards the restoration and organ installation. The restoration work is done, the first delivery of the organ occurred last month, and the next is scheduled for the first week in October. We have surpassed the feasibility study expectation that we should be able to raise \$2.2 million, and we are well on the way to our stretch goal of \$2.5!

It's not too late to join with the others who have pledged! You may make your pledge [online](#). While you are online, be sure to watch [The Power of Grace documentary video](#) for inspiration! If you wish to ask questions about making a pledge, please contact Director of Development Brian Hagan at 212-254-2000 x119 or bhagan@gracechurchnyc.org.

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

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2

JOINING THE HOSPITALITY MINISTRY is a wonderful way to further engage with the Grace Church community!

Our small group of 11 am Hospitality volunteers is in need of more helpers! You may participate in whatever way suits your busy schedule. To donate bite-sized (savory or sweet) treats or to assist with serving, please e-mail [Ellen McElduff](#) or [Dana Foote](#) today!

PARISH LIFE

SUZANNE PELLER, longtime member of Grace Church and former Director of the Altar Guild, died on September 24 after a brief illness. Suzanne had moved to Chicago in recent years to be nearer her son, John. A memorial service at Grace Church is in the planning stages.

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.

A CONVERSATION WITH DAVID BROOKS, *NY Times* Columnist and best-selling author, presented

by Incarnation Camp on Wednesday, October 10, 6 - 8:30 pm at The Princeton Club of New York, 15 W. 43rd St ., NYC. To purchase tickets visit www.incarnationcamp.org/blog or call (860) 767-0848.