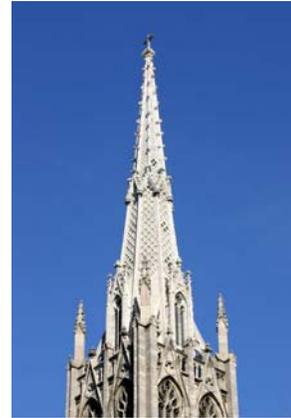


The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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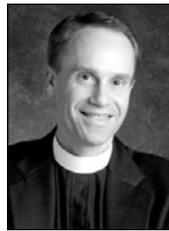
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To glorify God and fill the sanctuary with beauty for Easter...

Please make a memorial or thanksgiving offering for Easter flowers!

Sunday, March 17, 2013

The Fifth Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

Something that has been fun to watch over the past few months is the revival of our acolyte corps at Grace Church.

Acolytes are the servers at both the 9 and 11 am services who carry the crosses, torches, and banners in procession. They also assist with the offering plates, and help the clergy prepare the altar when we celebrate the Eucharist. Currently, fourteen young people ranging in age from 9-13 serve as acolytes. We also have six adults in the corps. I can remember a Sunday a year or so ago when we were minutes away from beginning the 11 am service, except - oops! - we had neglected to recruit a crucifer to lead the procession into the church. And as for finding someone to serve at a special midweek service, *fuhgeddaboutit!*

Not so anymore! These days we often have four or more signed up for the 11 am service, and two for the 9 am service. In a recent email to acolytes and their families I was explaining how to divide up responsibilities if we had one, or two, or three acolytes scheduled to serve at any one service. I took it all the way up to six, quipping that if more than six Grace Church acolytes were ever to serve at a single service, it would indicate that the world was turning upside down - a sure sign, of course, that when the



Donate now by clicking on the envelope image above (then click DONATE, next to "Contribution," select "flowers").

We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount you can give. Thank you!

For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Easter bulletin, it must be received by Palm Sunday, 3/24.

YOUTH & FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAR 24 - PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION - No Sunday School. All Sunday School children who wish to participate in a grand procession at the beginning of the 11am service should come to Tuttle Hall at 10:45 am on March 24th. Parents are welcome to march with their children. Parents who are not marching: please be sure your children know where to find you in the church after the procession ends.

MAR 30 - EASTER EVE WALK Join us on Holy

New York Mets collapse this year, they will tumble into first place, not last! Well, we have good news for the Mets: EIGHT acolytes have signed up to serve on Easter Day. The only appropriate response to such abundance is to make an acolyte pilgrimage to Citi Field and take in a Mets game, which we will do later this spring.

Lastly, a fun fact: two of our finest acolytes - Dweh Harris and Simone Beer - were baptized on the same day at Grace Church back in 2001. Simone, pictured below on the right, enjoys carrying the lead processional cross because she likes to be out front. Dweh, on the left, prefers the second cross because it's bigger and heavier. Such fun. Let's go Mets.

See you in church.

[The Rev. J. Donald Waring](#)

Rector



This Sunday, March 17, 2013

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton
Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton
Music: The Adult Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton
Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

Saturday, March 30th, from 10:30 am-1:30 pm, as we experience the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord through interactive storytelling. There will also be crafts, treats, and an Easter egg hunt! Activities are designed for kids ages 4 and up, but the whole family is welcome. Suggestion donation is \$10. To attend, RSVP to [Melissa](#), to help, see below!

EASTER EVE WALK

VOLUNTEERS! Your help in making this year's Easter Eve Walk a joyous occasion for all is greatly needed! If you are able to offer your time, gifts or talents, please sign up by contacting [Melissa](#). Please see the Easter Eve Walk Bulletin Board (just outside the Reception Room) to see how you might help!

MAR 31 - EASTER DAY - No Sunday School.

Activity bags available to help kids sit through church!

HELP TO PROVIDE A HOME COOKED MEAL

for guests at the [New York City Rescue Mission](#) on **April 13**. Volunteers are needed to prepare a dish at home, OR prepare cupcakes (to drop off at Grace), OR prep the meal on Saturday April 13 (10am-4pm) OR serve the meal (4pm-7pm). Lots of opportunities--how will

THE SUNDAY FORUM AT 10AM - TRYING CHRISTIANS: Challengers of Complacent Faith (Sundays in Lent)

Classes will focus on the lives of Christians who challenge the foundational beliefs and practices of our shared faith. A meditation on these figures reminds us to guard against complacency in our own religious lives. Held in Tuttle Hall; pick up some refreshment at coffee hour and join the discussion. **TODAY 3/17 The Rector will speak about the Rev. Dr. Walter Russell Bowie, 8th Rector of Grace Church** from 1923-1939, whose theological and political views often set him at odds with the parishioners of Grace Church but also the Bishop of New York. (The Sunday Forum will go on recess until April.)

ACOLYTE MEETING - NEWCOMERS WELCOME! Serving at the altar can be a wonderful way for young people to become more engaged in the worship (to say nothing of not having to sit with their parents!). Anyone from 4th grade through adulthood is welcome. After today's 11 am service, the clergy will lead a 30-minute informational training session for current and prospective acolytes to get us ready for Holy Week and Easter. Youth acolytes should first enjoy some treats at coffee hour, and then the acolyte rehearsal will begin at 12:30 pm in the chancel. If you'd like to serve but can't attend today's meeting, contact the Rector at dwaring@gracechurchnyc.org.

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT: FROM SIN TO FORGIVENESS - (Sunday Evenings)

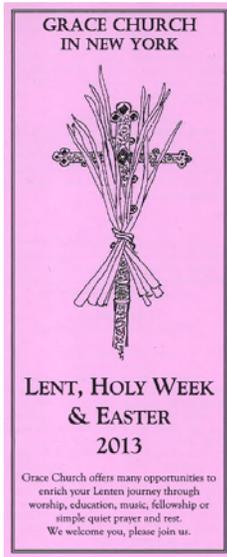
Classes begin after the 6 pm service (about 6.45) and aim to be finished by 8 pm. We will reflect on our spiritual journeys from sin and brokenness to forgiveness and healing. This series is centered on the Eucharistic lections and uses outside readings, film, lectures, and discussion/reflection groups. Join for one, or all of them. Held in the Music Room; light refreshment served. **TODAY 3/17 Grace: Accepting God's Love.**

COMING SOON

MAR 20 LENTEN FILM STUDY: THE DECALOGUE Our study of the films of Krzysztof Kieslowski, *The Decalogue*, concludes. Class will begin at 6:45 pm (directly after 6 pm Holy Eucharist) and conclude by 8:15 pm, in the Music Room.

YOU help? Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

Your guide to music, adult education and worship for the season...



Find copies around the Church and Parish House or **click on the image** above. (Highlights under **COMING SOON** below.)

MAR 22 - 20s30s LENTEN SUSHI FRIDAY - Enjoy a meal, prayer and fellowship with others in their 20s and 30s at 7 pm at Grace Church. **All churches in the diocese are invited to attend.** Sushi will be buffet, \$12 per person, and BYOB. *RSVP required by noon on THURSDAY 3/21 to Melissa Spindler at mspindler@gracechurchnyc.org.*

MAR 24 - PALM SUNDAY EVENSONG - EXCERPTS FROM HANDEL'S MESSIAH PART II - At 4 pm in the Church, the Adult Choir will offer Choral Evensong featuring excerpts from the Easter Portion of Handel's MESSIAH.



MAR 27 - 1st CENTURY AGAPE MEAL - On Wednesday March 27th, in place of our usual 6 p.m. Eucharist, we will experience in food and format what the earliest Christians would have known in their gatherings together. Families and children are very welcome and encouraged. A \$10 suggested donation per adult will help offset costs.

APRIL - CONFIRMATION CLASSES FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS will begin in early April. Classes will meet weekly and be led by the clergy in preparation for the bishop's visit on Sunday June 16th. To sign up for youth classes (7th-12th grade) contact Melissa Spindler at mspindler@gracechurchnyc.org. To sign up for adult classes, contact the Rev. Stephen Holton at sholton@gracechurchnyc.org.

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