

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



In This Issue

[Adopt a Pipe by June 16!](#)

[This Sunday](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

Quick Links

[Visit our Website](#)

[More About Us](#)

[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)



Join by June 16th!

Sunday, May 26, 2013

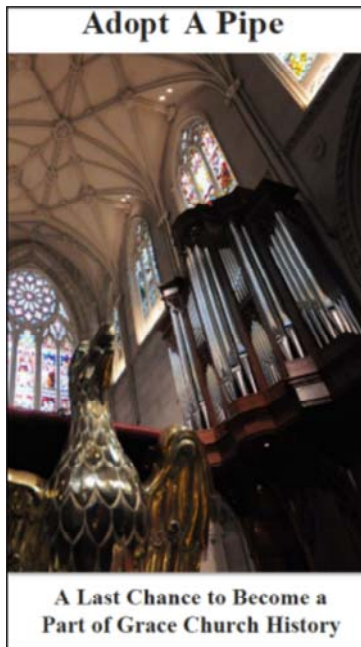
The First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday



Dear Friends,

Last Monday's horrific tornado that devastated the town of Moore, Oklahoma was yet another reminder of nature's power, even as beach communities in the New York area struggle to open for the first Memorial Day weekend after Hurricane Sandy. Predictably, a number of unsavory public figures always leap to conclude that particular natural disasters are God's judgment on those who don't subscribe to their own narrow political views or theology. For example, Fred Phelps, the pastor of the Westboro Baptist Church, has identified the tornado as the wrath of God in response to the NBA player, Jason Collins' announcement that he is gay. People of sound mind and good heart shake their heads in wonder at the twisted logic of such malicious comments. But at the same time we forget how embedded in our thinking is the association between natural disasters and acts of God. In fact, the insurance industry still - at least informally - uses the term "act of God" in the catastrophe models they use to calculate risk.

Natural disasters are not acts of God. Some time ago I saw an advertisement on the subway. If I recall, it was by the American Red Cross, and the caption they used to describe their work read: *Responding to acts of nature with acts of God.* I was struck by the beautiful - and dare I say, correct - theology contained in those nine little words. The acts of God are not to be located in the



Names will be inscribed on special plaques affixed to the organ case.

Only a few weeks remain to honor or memorialize a loved one...

[Click here today!](#)

to choose from popular giving levels like Donor (\$500), Friend (\$250), and Contributor (\$100). *(Deadline for inclusion on the plaque, is Sunday, June 16th!)*

MISSION TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA...

is being planned for the week of October 6. If you would like to participate, please sign up now so we

earthquake, wind, and fire that shatter people's lives. Rather, we see God's intervention in the spirits of those whom he stirs up to respond heroically in the wake of catastrophes. God does intervene in the world. The Spirit of God merges with our spirits to bring aid, to rescue, to comfort, to heal, to rebuild. Sometimes offering just a cup of cool water can make all the difference (see Mark 9:31). You and I are acts of God, and God is seeking to merge his Spirit with ours in response to acts of nature. What a responsibility. What grace!

See you in church.

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

This Sunday, May 26, 2013

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon

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

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist 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

TRINITY SUNDAY is one of the seven principal feast days of the Christian Year (the other six being Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, All Saints', Christmas, and Epiphany). What we seek to uphold and celebrate on Trinity Sunday is the Christian understanding of God's nature, which we believe God has revealed by grace in creation, in history, and above all, through Jesus. Today's hymns, Scripture readings, and sermon will help us grapple with God's nature, and the Eucharist at all services will help us taste and see how we participate in the Trinity.

THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM is on recess for the Memorial Day weekend, and will resume next week. See June 2, below, for descriptions.

CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS is suspended for the Memorial Day weekend, and concludes on June 2 at 12:45 pm.

can begin to schedule projects and line up materials. Contact [the Rev. Stephen Holton](#).

MUSIC UPDATE

WEEKEND MEDITATIONS **ORGAN** **have concluded** their 2013-2014 Season one week early due to a wedding celebration. They will resume in September.

BACH AT NOON completes its 2013-2014 Season on Friday, May 24. **The Summer Season launches next week on May 29, with concerts every Wednesday** at the usual time and place - 12:20 p.m. in the Chantry Chapel.

TUESDAY EVENSONG by our Junior Choristers completed the 2013-2014 Season this week. **Bravo Choristers on a beautiful season!**



Icon of the Trinity, after Anton Rublev (15thC)

PLEASE REVIEW THE GIVING LISTS for the Bicentennial, Power of Grace, and Adopt A Pipe Campaigns that you will find on the bulletin board opposite the Reception Room. A first step in creating plaques that honor our givers is to make sure that all names are accounted for and spelled correctly. You can also review the list [online](#). If you have any corrections or questions, please contact [Brian Hagan](#). Also, you still have time to Adopt A Pipe. See the announcement above.

COMING SOON

MAY 30 - ECW PARISH WIDE MEETING - All women of Grace Church are invited to this meeting at 6:30 pm in the Reception Room. Bring a "lite bite" for the table if you are able. No pressure! Please try to attend this last meeting before the summer. On the agenda: "Women's work days" for June and July! Christmas Fair 2013 and much more!

JUNE 2 - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - "CONFIRMATION REFRESHER" PART II - HOLY SCRIPTURE: What is it, Where does it come from, How do we read it? with The Rev. Stephen Holton.

On JUNE 9, join the Rector for (PART III) a discussion of THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER AND THE SACRAMENTS.

Our three-part series of "Confirmation Refreshers" allows the congregation to preview what the clergy will be teaching the Confirmation classes later in the day. The sessions will be excellent for "seekers" as well as those who have not reviewed the basics since their own Confirmations! Held in Tuttle Hall; coffee is served.

JUNE 9 - THE ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC AND CHOIR RECOGNITION SUNDAY - All Grace Church parishioners and friends are welcome and encouraged to come to Huntington Close following the 11am service! Join us as we celebrate the choir ministries of Grace Church and bring our program year to a joyous and festive close. There will be a suggested donation at the door of \$10 per person to help offset costs. WE LOVE VOLUNTEERS! To help, please contact [Miss Melissa](#).

JUNE 26-28 - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - Children aged 4-10 are encouraged to join us for three afternoons of Bible stories, games, and awesome

activities. For more information or to volunteer,
contact [Miss Melissa](#).

802 Broadway New York NY 10003 (212) 254-2000
www.gracechurchnyc.org

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to jmetz@gracechurchnyc.org by jmetz@gracechurchnyc.org |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Grace Church in New York | 802 Broadway @10th Street | New York | NY | 10003