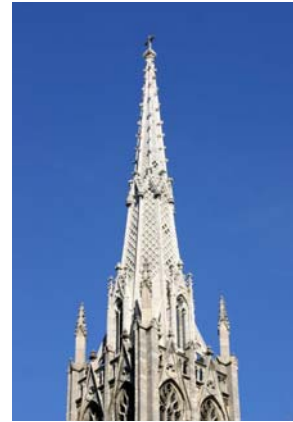


The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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Tomorrow!
Celebrating the
New Bicentennial
Organ, Opus 65!

September 22, 2013

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

At the beginning of tomorrow afternoon's organ concert it will be my joy to welcome people, and I will, of course, remind them to turn off their phones. Before the start of every wedding and Grace Church Choral Society concert, I welcome people and remind them to do the same - turn off their phones. We do not begin our worship services with such a reminder, and we often pay the price when someone's phone goes off at an awkward moment. Yes, the ring tones can be so out of place as to be funny. Also amusing is when a phone rings in the middle of the service and whoever owns it allows it to ring out, hoping that no one will guess who the guilty party is. The phone at last stops ringing, and everyone breathes a sigh of relief. But no, the final indignity is still to come: when the voicemail alarm signals that the caller has finished leaving a message.

As you know, concerts and church services aren't the only venues upon which the phone intrudes. All of our human interactions seem to take a back seat to the ever present screen. People walk down the street with their faces buried in their phones, and guess who's supposed to get out of the way? You, who are paying attention, that's who. Last month on vacation we were in Kansas City and went to what purported to be the best BBQ restaurant in the Midwest. As we waited for our table



SATURDAY, 9/21 @3PM!
 (Then come on Sunday
 @10am, for tales from our
 organ builder, John Boody!)

**Pulling Out the
 Stops at Grace!**
 Founding partner of Taylor
 and Boody Organbuilders,
 John Boody, speaks...



See This Sunday, the
SUNDAY FORUM 10AM...

**HELP OTHERS IN
 NEED...Opportunities for
 reaching out.**



**MISSION TRIP TO WEST
 VIRGINIA (Still recruiting!)**

in an outdoor seating area, I noticed that among all the other families, couples, and groups who were there, few people were talking to each other, and most eyes were transfixed by a screen. My phone, too, weighed heavily in my pocket, and the temptation to check the news, the email, and the ball scores was ever present.

I make no glib pronouncements that we should all wean ourselves off mobile phones. Nor am I pining away for the simpler days of rotary phones and no answering service. But I have been around long enough to remember when digital wristwatch alarms were all the rage. The alarms would sound in the middle of church, dinner, and school. Never once do I recall the wearers of these watches jumping to attention and rushing off to do anything at all. Invariably, they just sat there. There was no cause for alarm. To me, it was an early indication that many of the messages that demand our attention, no matter how loud or urgent they appear, can simply wait.

See you in church. And silence your cell phone, please.

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

This Sunday, Sept 22

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton
 Music: The Girls' Choir with Adults

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Wood
 Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

(Service times are updated
 weekly on the [website.](#))

JOHN BOODY: PULLING OUT THE STOPS AT GRACE - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - Performance and Worship series. John Boody, founding partner of Taylor & Boody Organbuilders, will regale us with an overview of the complex design and construction of

Volunteers will work on the **repair of homes and schools** in McDowell County, WV, a region devastated by flooding over the last decade. The team departs on October 6, and we are seeking 3 more hardy volunteers who can do construction work (we can train you). If you are game, please [contact the Rev. Stephen Holton](#) as soon as you can!

MENTORING FOR VETERANS

Have you served our country in the Armed Forces or know someone who has? Want to **make a difference for a homeless or recently housed veteran?**

Consider joining the [Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing](#) as a volunteer mentor as a part of a comprehensive life skills curriculum. Parishioners [Jason Slibeck](#) and [Gordon Matheson](#) are experienced mentors, and would be very glad to talk with you about this rewarding experience.

THE GO PROJECT/YOUNG LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (YLC),

a committee for young professionals interested in **making a difference in the lives of GO students**, hosts its first annual Fall Cocktail Party on 11/21, featuring a silent auction, open bar,

their "[Opus 65](#)," Grace Church's recently completed Bicentennial organ. Comprised of seventy-five stops and some 5,000 pipes, our organ took his fifteen-person workshop more than three years to build. Parts of the organ - the bellows, the wind system and much of the tracker action - usually installed in the visible casework, are built into a climate-controlled space beneath the chancel floor. **(Next week: REFLECTIONS ON IMPERFECT HARMONY with author and Choral Society member Stacy Horn.)**

CALLING ALL (AND NEW) ACOLYTES - Anyone 4th grade and older who is interested in serving at the altar during Sunday services is welcome to a 30-minute meeting today. Following the 11 am service, help yourselves to a snack at coffee hour, then come back to the church altar area for a review and rehearsal of our work together.

COMING SOON



SEPT 23 - FAMILY FAITH FORUM - OUR SPIRITUAL PRACTICES (and how they strengthen us for our kids) **A chance for parents to get together**, share light refreshments, and chat about the different joys and challenges we face as parents. Monday, Sept 23, 7-8:30 pm. *RSVP to [Melissa](#) by noon on Monday, Sept 23rd.*

SEPT 24 - OPEN DOOR FALL RECEPTION - *We are in need of 5 new volunteers!* Parishioners and friends who **have an interest in sharing their welcoming presence with weekend visitors** to Grace Church are encouraged to join this team. The time commitment is only 2 hours per month on Saturdays or Sundays. Please come on Tuesday, Sept 24th at 7 pm in the Reception Room for fellowship and celebration of the coming volunteer year. *RSVP to [Singleton Cox](#) by Friday, Sept 20.*

SEPT 26 - WELCOME TO GRACE COOKOUT - New to Grace Church? Just moved to New York and church shopping? Don't have a grill in your studio apartment? Come for **a casual evening of fun and**

food, and competitive games (billiards and Ping-Pong)! Purchase tickets [HERE](#). (For a special "Back to School" rate, purchase during the month of Sept.)

fellowship-a barbecue on Thursday, Sept 26, 6:30-8:30 pm. Meet friends new and old, beat the heat with burgers and lemonade, and watch (laugh?) as your clergy serve as grill masters. [RSVP to Jennifer Metz](#) by Tuesday, Sept 24.

SEPT 29 - REFLECTIONS ON IMPERFECT HARMONY - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - Performance and Worship series.

Author and Grace Church Choral Society member Stacy Horn will read an excerpt from her recent book, *Imperfect Harmony: Finding Happiness Singing with Others*. She'll enter into a dialogue with the Rev. Stephen Holton on music as a unifying element in many faiths and a conduit to the divine. **(Upcoming Forum topics: 10/6 Jesus' Healing Miracles in Today's World - Part I, 10/13 Forum on recess, 10/20 Jesus' Healing Miracles in Today's World - Part II, 10/27 How to Suffer Well: Emotional and Spiritual Implication, 11/3 The Spiritual Life and Legacy of Madeleine L'Engle and more...)**

SEPT 29 - C.S. LEWIS' THE GREAT DIVORCE (A few tickets still available!)

Join other folks from Grace for a theatrical adaptation of CS Lewis's *The Great Divorce* on Sunday, Sept 29 at 3 pm. Tickets are \$30 each. All will be welcome to meet at 1 pm for lunch a la carte, or else you may meet us at the theater for a 3 pm show. **Lewis's work explores our sense of self, will, and sin, inviting self-examination and a bit of humor too.** From the website: "Climb on board a bus ride from the great beyond as some of Lewis' most provocative and fiercely funny characters take a day trip from Hell to Paradise. Heaven awaits them . . . but will they like it?" Visit: <http://greatdivorceonstage.com/> for info. [E-mail Melissa Spindler](#) to grab your ticket and join the fun!

OCT 3 - STORIES OF GOOD WORKS, STORIES OF GRACE CHURCH WOMEN: An ECW event

- This lecture by "Grace Church Women" Bonnie Recca and Mary Jenkins will explore the role of women at Grace Church in **bringing the Social Gospel alive in the late 18th Century** to surrounding neighborhoods. **All members and friends of Grace Church are invited!** Thursday, Oct 3 at 6:30 pm. Wine and Cheese Reception. Admission: A food donation. (Can be purchased at the ECW "store" when you enter the Reception Room.)

OCT 9, 16, 23 WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK AND FILM STUDIES! Join the Rev. Sarah Wood for a variety of

book and film discussions this year, beginning on Oct 9 with **Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold**. This 1956 novel by C. S. Lewis retells the ancient Greek myth of Cupid and Psyche from the perspective of Orual, Psyche's older sister. This stunning piece was Lewis' last novel, which he considered his most mature, and was written in conjunction with his wife, Joy Davidman. You are welcome to this book study time together, sure to inspire some great literary and theological reflection! Wednesday evenings, Oct 9, 16, 23, directly after the 6 pm Eucharist.

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