

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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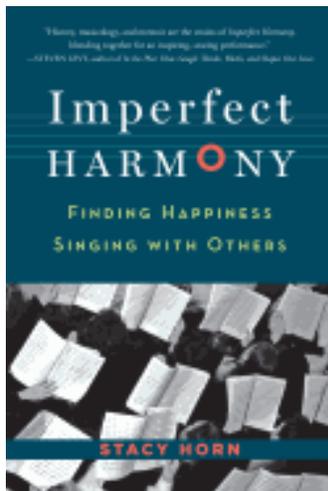
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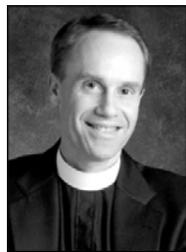


REFLECTIONS on...



September 29, 2013

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

In the Gospel of Luke (9:62), Jesus once told a would-be follower, *"No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."* Striking a similar theme, Paul the Apostle wrote to the Philippians (3:13-14): *Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.* The point is, the challenge of the Christian faith is to be more focused on the work that lies ahead of us than we are on any accomplishments that are behind us. Put another way, the promise of the Christian faith is that, with an eye on the resurrection of Jesus, our best days are always ahead of us, and not behind us. The point is well taken. To be in the presence of forward-looking individuals and communities is generally a more positive experience than being with those who are forever looking back.

That being said, we who dwell in time and space can't help but taking note of where we've been and what we've done. We need to learn from history to chart a responsible way forward, and we need benchmarks along the way to make sure that we are plowing forward in the proper direction. And who, upon looking back, can resist a bit of satisfaction in seeing that what lies behind is a job well done?

Join author Stacy Horn at the SUNDAY FORUM. Details under This Sunday, Sept 29...

Grace Church Women of the 19th Century!
Explore their fascinating stories with the ECW...



Clara Potter Davidge

Details under COMING SOON, Oct 3...

I was thinking about all this last weekend as we celebrated the completion of the Bicentennial Organ in Grace Church. The concert on Saturday was magnificent, and something about the worship on Sunday signaled to me that we were truly singing to the Lord a new song. For this parish it has been a twenty-year journey. It was in the early 1990s that various independent reports concluded that the old organ should not be restored in our space. So we put our hands to the plow and with varying degrees of intensity we pushed for two decades.

Along the way it wasn't always easy to forget what lies behind us. In the effort to reclaim the glory days, early iterations of the organ committee actually wanted to purchase back the old EM Skinner organ we removed and sold in the 1960s. When the old instrument wasn't available the goal then was to find and purchase another one of the same size and vintage. It was only when a new committee reconvened in 2007 that we made the decision not look back, but forward toward a new instrument. Now we can truly say that the organ of Grace Church is a work of art, a mechanical marvel, and a musical masterpiece.

Well done, faithful people of Grace Church. Now let's put our hands to the plow and press on through the challenges and towards the goal that God has set before us, singing to the Lord a new song as we go.

See you in church.

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



Photo of John Boody, Patrick Allen, Don Waring and performers by Paul West.

This Sunday, Sept 29

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

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

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

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***, before entering into a dialogue with the Rev. Stephen Holton on music as a unifying element in many faiths, a conduit to the divine, even for those who have no faith tradition, and more. There will be a question and answer period at the end. *Meets in Tuttle Hall. Coffee is served.*

(Upcoming 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...)

C.S. LEWIS' THE GREAT DIVORCE (Tickets still available!) Join other folks from Grace for a theatrical adaptation of CS Lewis's *The Great Divorce*. TODAY, 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 later at the theater for the 3 pm show.

For more info, visit: <http://greatdivorceonstage.com/>
To join the fun, [contact Fr. Stephen](#) asap!

COMING SOON

OCT 1 - CHORAL EVENSONG begins on Tuesday, Oct 1. This weekly offering by our combined Junior Choristers takes place in the Church every Tuesday at 6 pm when Grace Church School is in session.

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

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 19th Century** to surrounding neighborhoods. All members and friends of Grace Church are invited! Thursday, Oct 3 at 6:30 pm in the Reception Room. Wine and Cheese Reception. Admission: A food donation. (Can be purchased at the ECW "store" when you enter the Reception Room.)

OCT 6 - JESUS' HEALING MIRACLES IN TODAY'S WORLD (Part I) - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - Human Suffering: Compassion in Action series.

The Gospels record Jesus' healing miracles as testimony to God's power working in the world. This aspect of Jesus' ministry continues to inspire Christian mission in the world today, but at times, the specific stories can be quite painful to those experiencing serious illness and their families and friends. Today's speaker, Helen F. Goodkin, is a frequent presenter on Biblical topics, having retired from a career in healthcare to complete a Master's degree in Biblical Studies at General Theological Seminary.

OCT 6 - COOK LIKE A PRO, EASY AND CHEAP - Would you like to impress someone with a great meal that doesn't break the bank? On Sunday, Oct 6 at 7pm (after the 6 pm service), the 20's/30's group and Canterbury Downtown will combine to sponsor a cooking demonstration. Veggie and gluten-free options will be shown, and we'll enjoy the meal together afterwards. \$10 suggested donation. [RSVP by Friday, Oct 4.](#)

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 October 9th 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, October 9, 16, 23, directly after the 6 pm Eucharist.

OCT 13 - 20s30s SUNDAY BRUNCH - Members and friends in their 20s and 30s are invited to brunch on Sunday Oct 13th after the 11am service at Tink's Restaurant, 102 E 7th Street (between Avenue A and 1st Ave) . Melissa will gather the group in Tuttle Hall before walking together to the restaurant. *RSVP to [Melissa Spindler](#) by Friday Oct 11th!*

OCT 20 - Britten's REJOICE IN THE LAMB - Choral Evensong will be offered by the Choir of Men and Boys on Sunday, Oct 20 at 4 pm, featuring Britten's moving REJOICE IN THE LAMB. The Evening Canticles will be those set by Harold Friedell in F Major. The Prayers are set by William Byrd. Bring your family and friends to this special musical service.

OCT 27 - 2ND ANNUAL HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL Saturday Oct 27th in Tuttle Hall from 2:30-4 pm. All children and families are invited for an afternoon of **spooky fun and games**, featuring mask-making, craft projects, and cupcake decorating. Lend a hand by donating candy or helping at one of the tables. Drop off or deliver candy/cupcakes to 802 Broadway now through Oct 27th. 20s30s will stay and play from 4:30-6 pm. Contact [Melissa Spindler](#) for more information.

NOV 2 - PUT ON YOUR OVEN MITTS! After a great experience in April of this year (about 60 of our community participated!) we once again will cook and serve **a homemade meal to guests of the [NYC Rescue Mission](#)**. Don't miss this rewarding opportunity to serve together and to make a difference. Look for the signup table after services beginning Sunday, September 29, or e-mail [outreach](#) for information.

NOV 2 - GO PROJECT GEARS UP FOR FALL [The GO Project](#) is looking for volunteer tutors to work with children from Lower East Side public schools who need a leg up. This year there is an option to sign up as a substitute, who will be called upon as needed, as well as the usual commitment of every Saturday morning for the semester. Want to see what it's all about?

Come for a one-day volunteer session on November 2,
9AM-12:45PM. Contact [Olivia](#).

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