

## The Weekly Epistle: The Second Sunday of Easter, 11 April 2010 GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK

Dear Friends,

Easter Day at Grace Church was a glorious experience this year. The flowers were beautiful, the music magnificent, and the pews crowded as can be. Due to the scaffolding in the south transept, we lose about 100 seats, so the ushers were even sitting people inside the chantry. Even the weather cooperated, and the magnolia tree in the rectory garden was out in full bloom. In case you missed it, the 11 am service was live-streamed over the internet thanks to the Episcopal Church Center. You can still watch it if you go to [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org). You will see us right on the home page.

Speaking of scaffolding, we are on the verge of some healthy disruption. The scaffolding that you see in the south transept will be extended out into the nave and literally engulf the pulpit. (Yes, that means within the next few weeks the clergy staff and I will be preaching sermons from the lectern.) What the extended scaffolding will allow is the complete restoration of the center section of the transept, including two stained glass windows that need to be removed and restored off site before being reinstalled. We expect this phase of the project to cost approximately \$500,000, and last into the summer. That is all the more reason why we hope every member of Grace Church will participate generously and enthusiastically in the Bicentennial Capital Campaign. Please read below for Dana Foote's moving witness as to why she's giving.

See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring  
Rector

+ + +

A blessed and Happy Easter to all!

In our recent Lenten-soup-series there was a Sunday where we focused on HEALING. I shared with some of you my personal story of healing that day. Many of you know my story because you were part of it many years ago—but allow me to take a moment to share it with those of you who don't know it, so that you might have an idea of why we are giving to Grace Church.

When Dustin, our now 14 year old son, was a mere 21 months old--not too long after he was baptized here at Grace—we discovered a tumor on his adrenal gland that, after examining, every doctor and radiologist told us quite frankly: "this does not look good". We scheduled surgery at the Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Center to remove the tumor. Sherman and I were at the edge of the abyss looking death in the face. As you can imagine, we were terrified. Catatonic, actually. The only thing we could do was pray. So we prayed. And prayed. And prayed.

At the time, we were fairly new to Grace Church. A few parishioners, many of whom we didn't even know, had heard about what we were going through, and they made a plan along with the clergy and organized a healing service for Dustin in the chantry the night before his surgery.

Something changed for us that night. Something moved. Something lifted. Something palpable was going on in our midst. Something very powerful was transforming inside of me while this service was taking place—in our very own chantry here at Grace Church. Christ was in our midst. The people of Grace Church, along with our friends and family were sincerely and whole-heartedly praying for Dustin. Praying and singing and laying hands on our little boy. Somehow, we were able to let go of our fear that night. We were somehow able to hand it over to Him. I want you to know that the presence of God was surely in that place.

The next morning, Dustin had his surgery. The prayers continued. The surgery, which was thought to take up to 7 hours, took only 2 and a half. Five days later, after closely analyzing the tumor, the doctor's declared it to be benign. You can imagine our relief—our praising the Lord on that day and the days and weeks and months to follow!

But what happened in the chantry that night will be forever imprinted in our hearts. The power of the Holy Spirit was truly at work right there before us. Our belief in the Lord was remarkably heightened by this experience. Our faith was incredibly deepened. Here, **within the walls of Grace Church**, we witnessed something quite extraordinary. Here, we came to Christ more fully. He came to us and showed us the power of His love. For that, we are truly and forever grateful. That is my very real story about the power of prayer and healing. And I witnessed it first hand. At Grace Church. My prayers were heard and a miracle DID take place. TRULY, GOD IS IN THIS PLACE!

So, the walls of Grace Church matter to us. Clearly, it was God who healed Dustin. But it was within the beautiful space of Grace Church that Sherman and I were truly able to see the light of Christ and the power of His healing. Let's face it, we all want to see Grace Church thrive for years and years to come, don't we? The children of Grace Church may be 10% of our population today, but they are 100% of our future. As a passionate member of children's ministries at Grace, I want Dustin and Lucy and ALL the children of Grace Church for GENERATIONS to be able to experience God's love within this place!

Friends, that can't be done unless we, as custodians of this parish, all join together to help. **Grace Church needs healing.** It is in dire need of repair. Praise God for the glorious new Taylor and Boody organ which is now in production—it will be a gorgeous instrument. We cannot **even think** about putting the new organ into the church until all the necessary infrastructure work is done to heal the roof, the walls, the windows, among many other much-needed repairs. I am asking you to consider **what God has given you**—and to ask you to give back to God with thanksgiving and make a pledge to this very important campaign. Grace needs everybody to participate in this to the ability that they are able—and I can assure you that a gift of any size will be so greatly appreciated. Do what you can do. Please.

Thank you for reading my story. I encourage ALL of you to join me in love for Grace Church (!) and to give what you can to this stunning gothic place that is our spiritual home. Spread the love (and spread your gift out over a few years if necessary!) but do give what you can and PRAISE GOD FOR GRACE CHURCH!

~ Dana Foote

+ + +

**9:00 a.m.**

**The Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
**Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe**  
**Music: The Parish Choir**  
**Nursery care for children ages 0-3**  
**Sunday School for children at 9:00 a.m.**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Morning Prayer and Sermon**  
**Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe**  
**Music: The Girls Choir with Adults**  
**Nursery care for children ages 0-3**  
**Sunday School for children during the sermon**

**6:00 p.m.**

**The Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry**  
**Sermon: The Rev. Linda Bartholomew**

## **Music: Hymns with piano, instrumentalists**

### **SUNDAY**

**MANY THANKS** to everyone who contributed to a glorious Easter at Grace Church. The music soared, the flowers were brilliant, the choir breakfast was delicious, and the congregations were enormous and spirited (approximate attendances were: 275 at 9 am, 1,000 at 11 am, and 200 at 6 pm).

**EASTER LILIES** – Anyone wishing to take an Easter lily home to plant may do so after any of the services today. Lilies will be located on the chancel rail (between the choir and congregation). Please see Linda Bartholomew with any questions.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Resumes today. All children ages 4-8 are welcome to attend. At 9 am, parents should drop their children off at the classrooms near Tuttle Hall. Children then rejoin their parents in time to receive Communion together. At 11 am, parents and children begin together in the church, and children follow the crucifer to their classes during the sermon. Parents collect their children in Tuttle Hall during the coffee hour.

**NO ADULT CLASSES** – *Adult and Youth Confirmation, and Adult Education classes are all on recess today. All will resume next week.*

**COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP** follow the 9 and 11 am service today in Tuttle Hall and after the 6 pm service in the Reception Room. Do come back and say hello before being on your way.

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH** – The Easter portions of Handel's Messiah will be sung by the Adult Choir as part of Choral Evensong today at 4 pm.

### **FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES** - Are you looking for summer camp opportunities for your child? An option is Incarnation Camp, which offers an abundance of spiritually rich and fun activities for children and teenagers. Located only 2 hours outside Manhattan, it is a camp adventure close to home. Incarnation is a values oriented camp, which makes chapel and grace at mealtimes an integral part of the fun. For more information, you can visit their website at [www.incarnationcamp.org](http://www.incarnationcamp.org), or talk to Maura Hooper for more information. Also, mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School, which will run June 28th - July 1st!

### **PARISH LIFE:**

**2010 GO PROJECT ANNUAL BENEFIT** - Thursday, April 22, 2010, 7:00 – 10:30 pm Urban Zen Center at the Stephan Weiss Studio 711 Greenwich Street at Charles Street ~The GO Project shapes the futures of low-income New York City public school children by providing critical academic, social and emotional support starting in the early elementary years. Please join us at our Annual Spring Benefit, an auction and cocktail party, to help raise money for this great endeavor. Live Auction items will include a portrait sitting with renowned photographer Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, an Art Basel Miami Beach vacation, and four Field Box to a Yankees game. Tasting tables will be provided by Il Cantinori, JoeDoe, Marc Forgione, Periyali, POP Burger, Rosa Mexicano and ROC. Please join us for a fun-filled evening to support a great cause! To see more information and purchase tickets please visit: <http://www.goprojectnyc.org/events/annual-benefit>

**CONGRATULATIONS TO WENDY REYNOSO**, who has recently accepted the call to become the next Head of the Children's Storefront School in Harlem. But sad news for Grace Church and the GO Project. Wendy has been the Executive Director of the GO Project for 8 years now, and has overseen remarkable growth and development of this joint outreach venture between Grace Church and Grace Church School. According to Wendy, the new position is "a great opportunity to continue my life's work for underserved communities."

**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPRING CHOIR CONCERT** - The Choir of Men and Boys and Girls' Choir will offer some of their favorite anthems including those by Bach, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Mozart and Rose on Friday evening 23 April at 7:00 p.m. The concert is free and open to all. Following the concert is a special reception to celebrate the work of the choirs and raise money for the Choir Special Projects Fund that supports efforts by the choirs not covered by the operating budget. Please see a choir parent in Tuttle Hall after the 11 am service if you would like to make a donation or purchase tickets for the reception.

**OUTREACH REMINDER:** The first Monday of the month Outreach meeting this month is moved to Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. We meet in the church for a brief prayer service (come through the 802 door) at 6:30 and then move to Tuttle Hall for dinner. Please bring a dish to share if you care to, otherwise just your concern for the poor and the homeless of the city. Contact Linda Bartholomew [lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org) for more information.

**FOOD COLLECTION** - Many thanks for yet another large delivery of food we were able to make this month to Jan Hus Homeless Outreach. They send their profound thanks. Let's keep up the tradition of bringing canned and non perishable food items to share each Sunday. Food baskets are in the back of the church awaiting your generous response.

**NEW ORLEANS MISSION TRIP** - All those going on this year's trip will meet each other and do last minute planning for the week of May 1-8. Plan to join in on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> in the Reception room from 6:30-8. Please confirm your presence: Michael Watson [mwatson@americatunnelvision.com](mailto:mwatson@americatunnelvision.com).

**MANY THANKS** to everyone who has so far made a financial pledge in support of the Lord's work through Grace Church in the year 2010. So far 230 households have pledged for a total of \$843,946. The Vestry has passed a budget for 2010 in confidence that we will reach our goal of \$900,000 in pledges (last year was \$912,000). We have also committed to a maximum 3% draw on the endowment. If you haven't yet made a financial pledge, now is the time to do so in order to avoid further, painful cuts to an already austere budget. If you make a pledge, remember: you can pay it off in 52-weekly installments, and you can now give to Grace Church online. Please contact Joe Manzella at [jmanzella@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:jmanzella@gracechurchnyc.org) for more information.

**GIVE TO GRACE ONLINE** – Our website is now capable of receiving online donations through all major credit cards. Make payments on your annual pledge, adopt a pipe, support outreach and music, put flowers on the altar, help restore the building all through our secure connection. Go to [www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org) follow the links.

**A CALL FOR HOSPITALITY** - The baked goods and other delicious nibbles that we enjoy after the 11 am service are the gift of parishioners who volunteer to bring them. For anyone who wishes to participate in this much needed ministry of hospitality, please visit bulletin board to the left of the ladies room door to sign up. The hospitality committee will be in touch with you shortly.

**BAPTISM** - The next dates for Baptism are **Sunday, May 2 at the 9 am service; and Sunday, May 23, at the 11 am service. Please arrange your family plans around one of these times, and contact Ted Pardoe at [tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org)**

**ODDS AND ENDS:**

**ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES** are once again available for the 11 a.m. service. Ask an usher and he or she will be glad to assist you.

**PRAYER LIST** - If you would like to have a name added to the prayer list, please email Bill Nave: [bnave@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:bnave@gracechurchnyc.org) or 212-254-2000, ext 100 by Tuesday. Names will be read during the services for four weeks unless notified otherwise.