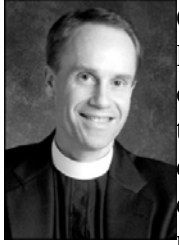


# The Weekly Epistle: The Fifth Sunday of Easter, 2 May 2010

## GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK

Dear Friends,



One of my highest hopes for Grace Church is that we wrestle with the questions about God and life that you are actually asking. I still remember a time early in my ordained ministry when I was on the staff of a large parish in suburban Detroit. Because I was the most junior priest on the team, I wound up listening to far more sermons than I preached. One Sunday a clergy colleague delivered a sermon entitled, "Why Did God Require Jesus to be Baptized?" It's a humdinger of a question, to be sure, but for the life of me, I couldn't imagine a single person driving to church that morning with a burning desire to know the answer. The question, "Why did God require Jesus to be baptized?" is staggering in what it takes for granted: A. That there is a God, B. That this God requires things of us, C. That God required this particular thing to be done. My guess is that many in the congregation that day would have appreciated a long hard look at A and B instead of racing immediately to C.

For me, that long ago sermon was a lesson in learning never to assume too much, and it put me on guard against addressing questions people aren't asking. I know that I speak for my clergy colleagues at Grace Church when I say that we love your questions. Don't hesitate to ask them. Let us know the things that are challenging your faith. Who knows: you may discover that the very thing you are mulling over is addressed in a class, or that a sermon speaks directly to you.

See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring,  
Rector

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### *Why We Are Giving to the Bicentennial Capital Campaign*

Our relationship with Grace Church in New York spans more than 25 years and has encompassed our marriage and the births and baptisms of our three children. Like others who have shared their reasons for giving to the Bicentennial Capital Campaign, we are blessed to be able to call Grace Church our spiritual home and to have experienced the sustaining power of God's grace from within the elegant, historic edifice that is the physical embodiment of Grace Church. Grace Church has been a beacon in our lives, and our pledge to the Capital Campaign reflects our fervent hope that Grace Church will continue to soar above Broadway and Tenth for generations to come, inspiring and sustaining countless others as it has done for us. Our support for the Capital Campaign also reflects a desire to see that the extraordinary musical tradition of Grace Church continues for generations as well, and for this to be realized, a new organ is essential. Both the urgent restoration work on the Church and the purchase of a new organ present daunting financial challenges, but what better way to express our gratitude for all the blessings of this life than to do what we can to help to meet these challenges? Thanks be to God!

*~Lee and Win Chamberlin*

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**9:00 a.m.**

**Baptism and Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

Sermon: The Rev. Benjamin Thomas

Music: The Parish Choir

*Nursery care for children ages 0-3*

*Sunday School for children at 9:00 a.m.*

**11:00 a.m.**

**Holy Eucharist, Rite I**

Sermon: The Rev. Benjamin Thomas

Music: The Junior Choristers with Adults

*Nursery care for children ages 0-3*

*Sunday School for children during the sermon*

**4:00 p.m.**

**Choral Evensong**

**Music: The Adult Choir**

**6:00 p.m.**

## **The Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry**

Sermon: The Rev. Benjamin Thomas

Music: Hymns with piano, instrumentalists

### **SUNDAY**

**WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM** - As you all know, our Assistant Rector, **Benjamin Thomas**, has accepted the call to become the next Dean of Christ Cathedral, in Salina, Kansas. The Thomases will not be moving until June, but with a doctoral dissertation to complete, and a new baby to welcome to the world sometime in May, today marks the final time that Ben will preach at a Sunday service. Also at the 10 am Adult Education Class in the Reception Room, Ben will be telling us about his call to the Diocese of Western Kansas, and the work and ministry of Christ Cathedral. And yes, Ben has given permission for his talk to be entitled, "Where the Buffalo Roam."



**THE ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS** - The class will meet for the final session at 10 am in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.

**THE YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS** will meet at 12:30 pm in the 3rd floor conference room.

**CHORAL EVENSONG** - This beautiful, meditative service is a treasure of Anglican liturgical spirituality. The Adult Choir sings Choral Evensong according to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer on the first Sunday of most months. Join us today in the church at 4 pm.

**BROADWAY SIDEWALK** - Thank you for your patience as we replace the entire Broadway sidewalk between 10th and 11th Streets, fronting the rectory yard, church, and Huntington Close. The project will be done in phases, and should be completed by June. Access to the parish house, church, and chantry will be maintained at all times.

**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.

### **CENTERING PRAYER GROUP meets at 5 pm in the Third Floor Conference Room.**

**EVENING ADULT EDUCATION** - Following the 6 pm service in the Reception Room, light refreshments are available. Then from 7:30 - 8 pm the preacher of the evening helps us take a deeper look at the Scripture readers we heard in worship.

### **FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - 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.

**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, June 28th - July 1st!**

### **PARISH LIFE**

**SMALL GROUPS** - Beginning April 14 and going through June 2 Linda Bartholomew and Ted Pardoe will lead a small group Bible study focusing on the upcoming Sunday readings. Participants can join at any time. Classes meet in the reception room from 7-8 pm. No prior studies necessary. Contact Linda Bartholomew [lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org) for more information.

**BISHOP ROSKAM**, the Suffragan (assistant) Bishop of New York will be with us next Sunday, May 9, at the 11:00 am service for Confirmation. Bishop Roskam will also speak to the Adult Education class and Confirmation candidates at 10 am in the Reception Room.

**OPEN DOOR MINISTRY** - Volunteers are sought to participate in the Open Door Ministry, with a summer session kick-off in June. The Open Door Ministry staffs Grace Church with volunteers to greet visitors, answer questions and offer brief tours. If you would like to learn more about "welcoming the stranger", please contact

Singleton Cox [singleton.cox@gmail.com](mailto:singleton.cox@gmail.com) and Jennifer San Cartier [jsancartier@nyc.rr.com](mailto:jsancartier@nyc.rr.com) for more information.

**MEMORIAL DAY BBQ-** There is no 20s/30s first Sunday brunch this week. In lieu of brunch, join us on Saturday May 29th at 4pm in Seymour Close for a Memorial Day weekend barbeque. Come out for some good food and a chance to unwind! Talk to Maura Hooper for details at [mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org) or (212) 254-2000 x.113.

**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 date for Baptism is Sunday, May 23, at the 11 am service. Please contact Ted Pardoe at [tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org)**

#### **OUTREACH**

**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 VOLUNTEERS** will leave the front steps of Grace Church at 5:45 am on Saturday, May 1, for our fifth annual mission trip to help in the recovery from Hurricane Katrina. This year we will continue to rebuild homes, help to restore Grace Church, New Orleans to its pre-hurricane condition, prepare and serve food to other rebuilders and the homeless, work with inner-city youth in their art program, and help to restore the wetlands that protect the city from storm surges during hurricanes. After our 27 volunteers complete this trip, we will have given a total of 4,000 hours of service over our five trips to New Orleans. Please keep our team in your prayers for a fulfilling journey and a safe return on May 8th.



#### **EVERY WEEK**

**BACH AT NOON** - The organ compositions of Johann Sebastian Bach are played between 12:20 - 12:50 p.m. every Tuesday through Friday.

**CHORAL EVENSONG** with the Junior Choristers on Tuesdays, 6 pm, when Grace Church School is in session.

**THE WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** meets each week at 10:15 am in the Reception Room. Newcomers are always welcome.

**WEDNESDAY 6 PM EUCHARIST** - The Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Wednesday at 6 pm in the Chantry with hymns and homily. Perfect for those who missed church on Sunday, or simply need an extra-dose of God's good news in the middle of the week. This Wednesday's preacher is the Rev. Benjamin Thomas.

**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.