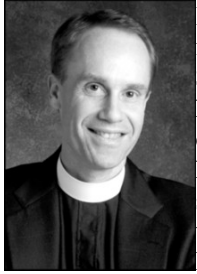


The Weekly Epistle of Grace Church in New York

The Sixth Sunday of Easter, 9 May 2010

Dear Friends,



I write today with enormously good news for Grace Church - and a challenge. Those of you who have been following our weekly annual pledge announcements have recognized that we have been stalled at \$850,000 - \$50,000 short of where the budget expects pledging to be. The reason is two-fold. Several key givers from last year have moved to different neighborhoods or out of the city altogether. Also the lingering effects of the recession have cut into the numbers of people making annual financial pledges for 2010. While attendance at Sunday services has held up, we are down nearly 50 pledges from just two years ago. The effect is to weaken one of our three main sources of revenue (a prudent endowment draw of three-percent, and income from the Loft Building are the other two). Imagine sitting on a three-legged stool when suddenly a few inches are sawed from the bottom of one leg. Either you quickly find a way to balance on two legs, or you fall to the floor. For this reason the Vestry and I have been deeply concerned about the \$50,000 gap in our pledging. Frankly, if the gap isn't closed, the only way to pull off another balancing act will be to cut from a budget that is already cut to the bone, or drain it from the endowment. Neither option is acceptable for the short or the long term.

Now the good news: A generous parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous has stepped forward with a wonderful offer to help us close the gap: a \$25,000 challenge pledge. Beginning today, every new pledge and all increases to existing pledges will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000. Every gift of any size will matter greatly, and you can spread your payments out over the rest of the year. Consider: if 50 people were to make new pledges of \$500, or increase their existing pledges by the same amount, we would cover the gap. With 34 Sundays left in 2010, the weekly cost for fifty people to meet the challenge is only \$14.70. If more people rise to the challenge, the cost is even less.

The easiest way to help meet the challenge is to give online through the church website at www.gracechurchnyc.org. Click on the main menu button, "Give to Grace Online," then the Donate button by Annual Pledge Campaign, and type "Challenge Pledge" in the comments section. You can even stipulate online whether your gift is a one-time payment, or something you'd like to spread out over the remainder of the year. Or you can make a check out to Grace Church, write "challenge pledge" in the memo line, and place it in the offering plate on Sunday. Don't miss an extraordinary opportunity to double the impact of your supporting the Lord's work through the ministries of Grace Church. Bless you for all the ways you give and serve.

See you in church

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

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9:00 a.m.

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.

Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sermon: The Rt. Rev. Catherine Roskam

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys and the Girls' Choir

Nursery care for children ages 0-3

Sunday School for children during the sermon

6:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe

Music: Hymns with piano, instrumentalists

SUNDAY

HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY to all mothers in our midst, in our minds, and in our hearts today. We give thanks for the countless ways that God has shined his love upon the world through you.

BISHOP ROSKAM, the Suffragan (assistant) Bishop of New York is with us today 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.

WHAT DOES YOUR FINANCIAL PLEDGE DO? Consider the following. Your annual pledge: Says a tangible "thank you" to God for all the blessings of your life, Supports the GO Project, a tutoring and social service program for 300 at-risk, public school students and their families, Keeps the church building open seven days a week for anyone who wants to come inside, pray, rest, or meditate, Grows a resilient and reasonable faith in people of all ages through our ambitious music program and Christian education classes for children and adults, Spreads the good news of Jesus Christ through our presence and worship services, and Employs 12 full-time and 5 part-time people. Many thanks to those who have already pledged, and to those who are rising to meet the new challenge pledge.

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, costing approximately \$150,000, is being funded by the capital repairs budget. It 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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - It's time to start thinking about Vacation Bible School 2010! This year's VBS will be a savannah-themed adventure for kids, ages 3-8 years old. Mark your calendars for June 28th-July 1st from 11 am - 4pm. Email Maura Hooper for a registration form at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

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, or talk to Maura Hooper for more information.

PARISH LIFE

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: 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 bartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org for more information.

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 and Jennifer San Cartier jsancartier@nyc.rr.com for more information.

MEMORIAL DAY BBQ - 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 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 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 **Pentecost Sunday, May 23, at the 11 am service.** Please contact Ted Pardoe at tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org

OUTREACH:

Thank you for all your generous contributions of non-perishable groceries. The Church in the Village--one of the emergency food pantries we support--is in desperate need of more food items. They create bags of groceries for those who can cook and those who cannot. Please continue to bring your donations to Grace Church and we will collect them and deliver. Please do not donate items which require refrigeration.

WELCOME BACK to the New Orleans relief team from their fifth annual mission trip to help in the recovery from Hurricane Katrina. This year's effort included rebuilding homes, helping to restore Grace Church, New Orleans to its pre-hurricane condition, preparing and serving food to other rebuilders and the homeless, working with inner-city youth in their art program, and helping to restore the wetlands that protect the city from storm surges during hurricanes. Our 27 volunteers have now given a total of 4,000 hours of service over our five trips to New Orleans. Stay tuned for reports and witnesses of this year's trip.

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. Stephen Arbogast.

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:



Some of the five baptism candidates paused for a picture on the church steps after the 9 a.m. service on May 2nd.

bnave@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000, ext. 100 by Tuesday. Names will be read during the services for four weeks unless notified otherwise.