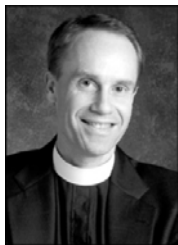


The Weekly Epistle

The Third Sunday after Pentecost~June 13th, 2010

GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK



Dear Friends,

I really do make a conscious effort not to use too many baseball analogies in the sermons I preach. The late broadcaster Ernie Harwell coined the phrase, "Baseball is a lot like life." And it is. But for those of you who never played the game, or simply aren't fans, baseball may not do anything to unravel the human predicament. So I restrain myself - I really do. But every once in a while, something happens on the baseball diamond that is too rich with meaning to ignore. On Wednesday night, June 2, Detroit Tigers' pitcher Armando Galarraga was one out away from pitching a perfect game. For the record, a perfect game in baseball occurs when a single pitcher within a nine inning game retires all 27 opposing batters in a row. It has to be three up and three down every single inning; not one batter can reach base for any reason. What is more, the pitcher's team needs to score at least one run and win the game. Perfect games are extremely rare. In more than 100 years of major league history, it has only happened 20 times.

It almost happened again on June 2nd. After retiring 26 Cleveland Indians in a row, Galarraga had one more out to go. The batter hit a weak ground ball to the first baseman, who fielded it. Galarraga ran over to first to cover. He caught the throw from the first baseman, stepped on the bag ahead of the runner, and the umpire called the runner - safe? On video review it was clear that the umpire blew the call. The next batter up grounded out, the game was over, and fans were furious. They wanted baseball commissioner Bud Selig to reverse the call. Selig refused - rightly, I think. You see, a perfect game is about much more than the pitcher. The pitcher's team on the field also needs to be perfect. If they make one error, the perfect game is lost. What the June 2nd game revealed is the third team on the field - the team of umpires. They too need to be perfect. The life lesson here is about the human element on the field, and the coordination of team work.

On Tuesday, June 8th we held our final Vestry meeting until the fall. At the end of the meeting I wanted to thank the Vestry for their part in guiding Grace Church through an extremely difficult year. The church is not all about the clergy, any more than baseball is all about pitchers. The church needs lawyers, architects, artists, musicians, teachers, doctors, nurses, and people of every honest trade lending their talents if the kingdom of God is to grow among us. We have such people in abundance on our Vestry who work heroically for the well-being of Grace Church. I also want to thank all those who have made a financial pledge for 2010, those who made a challenge pledge, and those who are committed to the capital campaign.

Did we have a perfect year? No - time, gravity, and the secular rush of New York City are the big bats in the opposing line-up. But they have not knocked us out of the game. Thanks to each one of you for your part on the team we call Grace Church.

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. Linda Bartholomew
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. Linda Bartholomew
Music: Joshua Parrillo, soloist
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. Linda Bartholomew
Music: Hymns with piano, instrumentalists

SUNDAY

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP - Join us in the Reception Room following the 9 am service for refreshments before being on your way.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Sunday school is still happening throughout the summer! Through June, Sunday school will take place at its normal hour at both the 9am and 11am services. During July, we will only lead an 11am class. There will be no Sunday school in August.

MORNING AND EVENING ADULT EDUCATION are on break for the summer.

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

ADOPT A PIPE - Although the Bicentennial Phase of the campaign is now concluded, you can still Adopt a Pipe in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a happy event in your life. Every pipe adopt contributes to the new pipe organ currently under contract and under construction. We anticipate the installation of the organ to begin in the summer of 2012. Please see the brochure in your pews today.

BROADWAY SIDEWALK - Thank you for your patience as we worked to replace the entire Broadway sidewalk between 10th and 11th Streets, fronting the rectory yard, church, and Huntington Close. The project, costing approximately \$150,000, was completed this week on time and on budget.

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - It's not too late to register for this year's Vacation Bible School, Under the Baobab Tree! Join us for a scripture-based adventure through the savannah! Kids ages 4-8 years old are welcome to register. Vacation Bible School will take place from 10in on June 28th - June 30th (note the change in date!). 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

SUMMER BOOK DISCUSSION - This year's summer book discussion, to be co-led by Don Waring and Ted Pardoe, will meet on Wednesday evenings, June 30 through July 28, 7:00 pm in the Reception Room. The book, entitled A Confession, by Leo Tolstoy, traces the author's journey from atheism to belief. The only requirement for participation in the class is that you read the book! For more information, contact Ted at tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org or Don at dwarling@gracechurchnyc.org

CHALLENGE PLEDGE - We did it - almost twice! Sixty-four people have responded with \$49,486 in new and increased giving to meet the \$25,000 challenge pledge of a generous parishioner. The goal has been to close what was a \$50,000 gap between our budget and the annual campaign. With \$74,486 more revenue than we expected to have just a few weeks ago, we are now able to enjoy breathing room, rather than anticipating further cuts. Many, many thanks to those who responded to the challenge, and to the truly inspired soul who issued the challenge in the first place.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: THE BICENTENNIAL PHASE - This month we celebrate the conclusion of the Bicentennial Phase of the capital campaign. Our goal has been to restore the interior of the church and to replace the failing (and now failed) pipe organ. Thanks to the combined gifts of 209 households, we have received \$5,116,597 in commitments. This total includes \$4,770,722 individual pledges, \$100,075 Adopt A Pipe gifts, \$112,500 foundation grants, and \$133,300 in corporate matching grants. Many thanks to all those who have pledged to the campaign. It is time now to enjoy a breather from capital fund raising!

OPEN DOOR MINISTRY - The Open Door Ministry Re-Launches!

This past Sunday was the first day of our summer session to staff an Open Door Ministry volunteer in Grace Church to greet visitors. We are very excited to reinvigorate this effort and are grateful to our volunteer base. The volunteer for Sunday's first shift, Mariama Ifode, shared the following about her experience: "We welcomed over 60 people in that time (two hours). After about saying "Welcome to Grace" about the fiftieth time I realised how profound those words meant to me. There were many donations to the collections box and a homeless lady came in asking for directions to another church that offered beds. I gave her our outreach leaflets and talked with her." This is a lovely reminder of what this Ministry can become. We are not only greeting tourists to New York and visitors interested in the beautiful architecture of Grace Church, but we are a liaison to our community. We can help direct those in need to vital resources and lend an ear to those appreciative of someone to simply listen. In the fall, we would like to expand our schedule to include weekday coverage, and to train volunteers to provide regular church tours. If you would like to join us in "welcoming the stranger", please contact Jennifer San Cartier jsancartier@nyc.rr.com or Singleton Cox singleton.coxa@gmail.com 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 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.

OUTREACH

FOOD DONATIONS - Please do not forget about those who rely on food banks in the summer months. Our Episcopal neighbors at The Church of the Ascension have requested our help in re-stocking their shelves with non-perishable groceries (food cards are always welcome) to help serve the swelling numbers of homeless and hungry they are now serving since the closure of St. Vincent's Hospital. A special benefit for their shelter happens this coming Thursday night. For more information check out movablefeast@ascensionoutreach.org. Many thanks for your ongoing help!

EVERY WEEK

BACH AT NOON -During the summer, the compositions of Johann Sebastian Bach are played between 12:20 - 12:50 p.m. Wednesdays only. Due to the scaffolding and restoration work in the church, Bach at Noon will occur in the Chantry.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY - will resume in the fall. **THE WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** meets each week at 10:15 am in the Reception Room. Our last official meeting of the year will be Wed. June 16th with an end of the year party off campus the following week. Please join in even now, or plan on joining us next September! Contact The Rev. Linda Bartholomew lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org for more information. **WEDNESDAY 6 PM**

EUCCHARIST - 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. Ted Pardoe.

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