

GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK
THE WEEKLY EPISTLE
The 24th Sunday after Pentecost ~ 15 November 2009



Dear Friends,

A few summers ago the Warings were driving home from a vacation upstate. It was a Sunday morning, so we stopped to attend the service at St. James Episcopal Church in Hyde Park. St. James is a lovely little gothic revival building. What I found most noteworthy of all was a plaque on the wall next to the lectern. It reads:

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
BORN: HYDE PARK, NEW YORK, JANUARY 30, 1882
DIED: WARM SPRINGS, GEORGIA, APRIL 12, 1945
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
SENIOR WARDEN OF THIS PARISH

FDR was not only a lifelong Episcopalian, but the Senior Warden of his home parish throughout his presidency. I've read somewhere (I can't find the source) that FDR would even leave Washington DC by train in order to be home in Hyde Park for Vestry meetings. The plaque is beautifully understated, suggesting that for Roosevelt, these two offices that he held were of equal importance.

This Sunday we are blessed to have with us Professor David Holmes from the College of William and Mary. Professor Holmes comes to us by way of Nick Birns, a member of the Adult Education Committee and the Guild of Scholars. The topic will be Religion and the Presidency, and you can read below about the two opportunities you have to participate.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

-
- 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring; Music: The Parish Choir
Nursery care for children ages 0-3; Sunday School for children at 9:00am
- 11:00 am Morning Prayer & Sermon**
Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring; Music: The Adult Choir
Nursery care for children ages 0-3; Sunday School for children during the sermon
- 6:00 pm The Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry**
Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring; Music: Hymns with piano instrumentalists

THIS SUNDAY:

RELIGION AND THE PRESIDENCY - Professor David Holmes teaches at the College of William and Mary, and is one of the leading American historians. His particular area of focus has been the role of Christianity in American life, and he is the author of *A Brief History of the Episcopal Church and The Faiths of The Founding Fathers*. On Sunday, November 15, he will address us on the relation between religion and the Presidency, how the personal religious beliefs of the recent Presidents, and their approach to their faith, has been manifested in their approach to the office. Professor Holmes will give two addresses at Grace Church: at 10 am in the Reception Room he will speak about Presidents Johnson and Reagan, and at 4 pm in Tuttle Hall he will speak about the religious faith of President Kennedy and his wife, Jacqueline.

NEWCOMERS - Our current round of newcomer classes continues today in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at 10 am. If you are new to Grace Church and looking for a way to learn more about the Episcopal Church and connect with other parishioners and clergy, these conversations will be an excellent way to do so.

GIFT BASKETS for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas, will be on sale at the hospitality hour after the 9:00, 11:00 and 6:00 services. The baskets are \$50 each, and the proceeds of the sales will help send volunteers for our annual relief mission trip to New Orleans in the Spring of 2010. (More information at the end of the *Epistle!*)

EVENING ADULT EDUCATION - Tonight we continue the sessions entitled *Conversations with Scripture*. Immediately following the 6 pm Eucharist, we meet in the Reception Room for refreshments. Then from 7:30 - 8:00 p.m. the preacher of the evening will facilitate a deeper look at the Scripture lessons that we heard in worship.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP TODAY AT 5 P.M. - Centering prayer is a Christian meditation practice described by Father Thomas Keating in his book *Open Mind, Open Heart*. Drawing from the Christian contemplative tradition, the group is facilitated by Joe Budenholzer and meets in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.

FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES:

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETS at both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. At the 9 a.m. service, drop your children off at the Sunday School rooms near Tuttle Hall, and they will return to the service in time to receive Communion with you. At the 11 a.m. service, children join their parents for the first part of the worship service, and then process to their classes at the time of the sermon. For more information, contact Maura Hooper at 212-254-2000 ext. 113, or mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2009 - The pageant has been cast! You can find the cast list posted on the pageant bulletin board outside the Parish Office. We saw so much promising talent from everyone who interviewed and we are very excited for this year's performance! For pageant singers, don't forget to schedule your private voice sessions. Email Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT- Our first Parents Night Out of the Fall is on Wednesday November 25th from 6p.m.-8 p.m. If your family is staying in town for the holiday, give yourself a night to prep (or relax!) and drop the kids off in Tuttle Hall for dinner and a movie! Children 3 years and up are welcome. Please RSVP by Sunday November 22nd to Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000, ext. 113.

THIS 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 occurs each Tuesday that Grace Church School is in session, 6:00 p.m. in the church.

THE WED. MORNING BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN - Come to the Reception room at 10 to settle in, say hello to friends, then at 10:15 am sharp we study, discuss and learn the scriptures for 1 hour each week. For more information, contact the Rev. Linda Bartholomew at lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org

WEDNESDAY 6 P.M. EUCHARIST - Our mid-week Eucharist occurs in the Chantry, and is followed by a Bible Study in the Reception Room led by the Rev. Linda Bartholomew.

PARISH LIFE:

THANKSGIVING SERVICES are scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 25th, 6 p.m. in the Chantry and Thursday, Nov. 26, 11 a.m. in the Church. The Rev. Ted Pardoe will be the preacher. Both services include the Holy Eucharist and hymns.

_____2010 ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN_____

WE'RE OFF TO A GREAT START - 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 142 households have pledged for a total of \$646,522.** The early indicators are good, but we still have a long way to go if we are to reach our ambitious goal of \$1,000,000 in pledges (last year was \$912,000). If you haven't yet made your pledge, you will find pledge cards on the tables in the Parish House Hallway near the Reception Room, in the narthex, and in the Chantry. Please seal your completed pledge card in the envelope, place it in the offering plate, or hand it to one of the clergy. If you would like to receive your pledge card by mail, please contact Joe Manzella at jmanzella@gracechurchnyc.org

ADVENT WREATH MAKING - Advent is fast approaching and that means it's time again to make wreaths for the season! On Sunday November 29th, join us in Tuttle Hall after the 9 and 11am services for wreath making. Don't miss out on the opportunity to create your very own wreath for the Advent season! Suggestions for Advent devotionals and how to use your wreath will also be available during the coffee hours. For more information on wreath making, contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org or 212- 254-2000, ext.113.

ABOUT THE ORGAN - The pipe organ that you see in the west gallery and south transept is no longer in service. Installed by the Herman Schlicker Co. in 1965, this Grace Church organ was a daring attempt to achieve a certain musical style, using experimental materials and the latest technology of the day. Sadly, these goals were only partially achieved. Neither the materials nor the technology proved worthy for the long haul, and the instrument was unable to exploit the unique acoustical properties of Grace Church. Recent electrical malfunctions have posed a fire hazard and are too costly to repair. The Vestry of Grace Church has commissioned Taylor & Boody Organbuilders to create for Grace Church a new pipe organ using the time honored methods of the craft that have allowed the life spans of organs in Europe to be measured in centuries, not decades. The organ that you hear today is a 20-year old digital instrument manufactured by Allen Organs. It will bridge the gap between the old organ and the new.

BAPTISM - The next date for Baptism is Sunday, January 10, 2010 at the 11 a.m. service. Please arrange your family plans around one of these times, and contact Ted Pardoe at tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org

FOOD COLLECTION - Once again we were able to deliver a generous supply of food to local pantries. Next week: More details about where your contributions are going! The homeless and hungry of New York appreciate your generosity. Please continue to be generous and place canned or non-perishable dry goods in the bins located in the church narthex.

ODDS AND ENDS:

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND GREENS - The beauty of Grace Church is enhanced at Christmas time with plants and greens made possible by the generous donations from our parishioners. Donations will be accepted throughout the month of December. More to follow, but if you'd like to make your gift early, please send a check for any amount to Grace Church, with "Christmas flowers" marked in the memo line.

FLOWER DONATIONS - A gift of flowers on the altar is a lovely, time-honored tradition in the church. Flowers can be given to commemorate an important anniversary, to remember a departed loved one, or to give thanks for any of God's particular blessings. Interested in sharing the cost with others? This is another good way to keep our worship beautiful. Contact Bill Nave at bnave@gracechurchnyc.org

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.

NEXT SUNDAY:

GRACE CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY is coming a bit early this year - next week, in fact - on Sunday, November 22. The purpose of the day is to uphold and celebrate the common history, ministry, and mission of Grace Church and GraceChurchSchool. At 10 a.m. George Davison, Head of GCS will speak on the history of GCS. At 11 a.m. the combined Girls' Choir and Choir of Men and Boys will sing, and the preacher will be the Rev. Daniel Heischman, Executive Director of the National Association of Episcopal School, and author of the recent book, Good Influence: Teaching the Wisdom of Adulthood. The service will be followed by a festive reception in Tuttle Hall.

The Outreach Committee of Grace Church, New York is offering GIFT BASKETS for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas.

The Gift Basket contains 1 lb. Of Bishop's Blend coffee, Grace Church ceramic mug, 1/4 lb. of English Breakfast tea, bamboo tea strainer, chocolate mints, candleholder with candle, sandalwood soap, and a packet of Gracechurch cards and envelopes.

Alternate versions of the Gift basket are available with contents of: 1 lb. Of Bishops Blend coffee, Grace Church ceramic mug, 1/4 lb. of Jasmine tea, bamboo tea strainer, chocolate mints, candleholder with candle, jasmine soap, and a packet of Gracechurch cards and envelopes. - or the baskets with soap may be substituted with a 5oz. Jar of jam.

Gift Baskets are \$50. and are available for shipping in the US for an additional \$14.

To place your order, or for additional information, please email mwatson@MichaelTWatson.com

Proceeds from the sale of this gift basket support Grace Church's efforts to rebuild New Orleans and the worldwide humanitarian efforts of the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund.

For information on these programs and how you can provide additional support, please contact: MikeWatson: mwatson@MichaelTWatson.com or Tom Leswing: @ tomLeswing@gmail.com