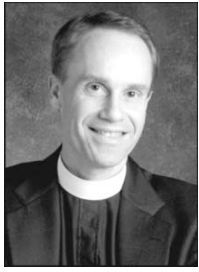


**GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK**  
**THE WEEKLY EPISTLE for 29 November 2009**  
**Advent Sunday**



**Dear Friends,**

The next time you come inside of Grace Church - whether it's for the Thanksgiving Day service, or worship next Sunday - the most obvious thing you will see is that the south transept has become a forest of scaffolding. At long last (just in time for the holidays, of course) we have properly filled out, properly filed, and otherwise properly begged for and received the proper permits that are necessary for us to move on to the next phase of restoring the interior of the church. Over the next few months workers will climb high and assess the condition of plaster, stained glass, and stone. What we learn from this one corner of the church will tell us much about what awaits us throughout the whole interior. Then, since the scaffolding will be in place already in the south transept, we will accomplish what needs to be done there before moving on to yet another location to be restored. It is a frightfully thrilling challenge.

It's the Tuesday before Thanksgiving as I write this. Late today when the scaffolding crew had gone home, I stood underneath the apparatus they've built and looked up towards the ceiling and stained glass. I must say that I find it rather beautiful in a jagged sort of way. Yes, we will miss the seating one month from today on Christmas Eve. But the scaffolding preaches a sermon all of its own. To me it speaks words of renewal and hope. It also speaks words of love and care. Those of you who love this family called Grace Church, and have contributed to the Bicentennial Capital Campaign, are making it possible to put God's house in order. For all of this, and for all of you, I give thanks.

A happy Thanksgiving to you and yours, my friends. See you soon.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring  
Rector

**9:00 am 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 am

**11:00 am Holy Eucharist: Rite One**

Sermon: The Rev. Linda Bartholomew  
Music: The Adult Choir  
Nursery care for children ages 0-3  
Sunday School for children during the sermon

**6:00 pm Holy Eucharist: Rite II, Chantry**

Sermon: The Rev. Linda Bartholomew  
Music: Hymns with piano, instrumentalists

**THIS SUNDAY:**

**ADVENT** - Sunday begins the liturgical season of Advent - the short span of time that includes the four Sundays before Christmas. The word Advent derives from the Latin *adventus*, meaning arrival, or approach. In our worship, the hymns and Scripture readings take on a mysterious, urgent tone as we anticipate the coming of Christ. One-by-one we light the four candles of the Advent wreath. The Gospel readings shift to Luke. The liturgical color is purple. Also, today's 11 am service, even though not the first Sunday of the month, is a celebration of the Holy Eucharist to mark the beginning of a new Church Year.

**ADVENT WREATH MAKING** - Join us today in Tuttle Hall after the 9 and 11 a.m. services for the opportunity to create an Advent wreath for the 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](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org) or 212-254-2000 ext. 113

**ADVENT COLLECTIONS** - This year, the annual Advent Drives which collect goods for local charities will take place during all four Sundays of Advent. For the first two Sundays - Nov. 29 and Dec. 6 - please continue bringing non perishable food items as we do every week. Then on December 13th, we will be collecting winter apparel for the Church of the Ascension to distribute to the homeless, and on December 20th, we will be collecting new men's underwear for the New York City Rescue Mission. Donations will be accepted in the narthex at the 9 and 11 am services, and in the portico of the Chantry at the 6 pm service. Don't forget to donate!

**NEWCOMERS** - Our current round of newcomer classes continues today in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at 10 a.m. 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 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.

**A CALL FOR HOSPITALITY** - The baked goods and other delicious nibbles that bless our after-service fellowship times 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. please visit the board and sign up for the service of your choice and the hospitality committee will be in touch with you shortly!"

**EVENING ADULT EDUCATION** - Tonight we continue the sessions entitled Conversations with Scripture. Immediately following the 6 p.m. 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.

**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. Please complete the flyer in your bulletins and return it to the parish office with a check ASAP. You may also place your completed forms in the wooden box outside the Reception 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](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SNACK ANGELS** - We are creating a new schedule for Sunday School Snack Angels for 2010 and we're looking for some new faces! Snack Angels are in charge of supplying juice boxes and packaged snacks for one month at a time (4 Sundays). It is a simple way to get involved with our children's ministry program, and the kids will thank you for it! Contact Maura Hooper to volunteer: [mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org) or 212- 254-2000, ext. 113.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2009** - We need parent volunteers in order to make this year's pageant the best yet! Make sure you stop by the volunteer sign up sheet next to the pageant

bulletin board to find out what pageant duties still need helpers. We also need your help on Pageant Workdays! They are December 12th, 19th, and 26th. Workday sign up sheets are now posted and ready for your signature on the wall opposite the pageant bulletin board. Get involved in the fun and lend a hand! Contact Maura Hooper at [mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org) or 212- 254-2000, ext.113 with any pageant questions.

#### **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. *(Thursday and Friday of Thanksgiving week, there will be no Bach at Noon; the church will be closed on these two days.)*

**Next Tuesday is the last CHORAL EVENSONG** for the fall term; 6:00 p.m. in the church.

**THE WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will resume Wednesday December, 2 at 10:15 sharp! Newcomers are always welcome.

**WEDNESDAY SMALL GROUPS AND BIBLE STUDY** will resume on Wednesday, December 2 after the 6 p.m. Eucharist

#### **NEXT SUNDAY:**

**CHRISTIANITY AND CAPITALISM** - The morning class resumes next Sunday at 10 am in the Reception Room. Susan Lee, an economist and television commentator will examine the links and the conflicts between Christianity and Capitalism.

**ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS** - December 6th, 4 pm. This hauntingly beautiful service traces the coming of Christ through prophecy and sacred song. The Adult Choir will sing.

**20s/30s MONTHLY BRUNCH** - It's almost the 1st Sunday of December, and that means another 20s/30s brunch! Join us at 1pm on Sunday December 6th at Acme Bar & Grill, located at Great Jones Street and Lafayette. If you're new to the 20s/30s group, come learn what we've been up to and how you can be part of the fun this holiday season! For more information on brunch and other events, talk to Maura Hooper at [mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org) or 212-254-2000, ext. 113.

#### **ATTENTION ACOLYTES AND ACOLYTE HOPEFULS**

Want to sit in the good seats in the front of the church? On Sunday December 6, there will be an acolyte training session after the 11 a.m. service in the main church. It will be held from 12:45-1:30p.m. and will introduce the basics of this important ministry to those interested in participating. In addition to carrying candles, crosses, and other important symbols of our faith, acolytes assist the clergy at the altar and generally find more meaning in the worship experience through active involvement in it. All current acolytes as well as those interested in acolyting are encouraged to come for this brief session led by the Rev. Benjamin Thomas. Questions? Email [bthomas@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:bthomas@gracechurchnyc.org)

**SCALE MODEL** - A magnificent model (1/20 scale) of the Grace Church chancel, showing the Bicentennial Organ, will be unveiled next Sunday.

#### **ADULT EDUCATION**

Meeting on most Sundays in the Reception Room at 10 am, conveniently between the two morning services is a discussion forum for adults that centers on matters of faith and practice that are important to Christians. Here's a look at what's ahead: December 13: "The Vatican's Offense?" - The Rev. Stephen Arbogast will help us understand the recent move by the Vatican to woo disaffected Anglicans into their fold. December 20: "Mysteries of Advent" - Matthew Holcombe, seminarian at Grace Church, will explain the various moods and traditions of this brief season in the Christian year.

#### **PARISH LIFE:**

##### **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 166 households have pledged for a total of \$675,902. 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](mailto:jmanzella@gracechurchnyc.org)

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN THE VILLAGE - Tuesday Dec. 22nd.** Meet at Grace Church (through the 802 door) in Tuttle Hall at 6:30 pm for a little Christmas cheer and to warm up our voices. We will proceed to bless our neighborhood and neighbors with some of the best songs of the season. All ages and voices most welcome! If you can let us know if you plan to join us that would be helpful [mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org)

**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](mailto:tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org)

#### **OUTREACH:**

**FIRST-MONDAY OUTREACH:** On the first Monday of each month, the Outreach Committee is seeking to build a community of people concerned about those who are homeless and hungry. The next meeting is Monday, November 2, at 6:30 pm we will begin in the church for a brief prayer service, and then move to Tuttle Hall for a light supper and sharing of options for serving the poor in New York City and beyond. Please use the Parish House entrance and arrive by 6:30 pm. Bring some cans of food for our food collection if you can do so. Call Linda Bartholomew for more information 212-254-2000, ext. 114 or RSVP to [outreach@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:outreach@gracechurchnyc.org)

**OUTREACH GROUP EVENT!** - With the goal of providing group volunteer activities on a regular basis, we have approached the Director of Volunteers, Anita VarnHagen, at the New York City Rescue Mission regarding our first such event. She would be very pleased to have a group of 6 of us from Grace serve a meal on a future Monday from 4:30 to 7 pm. The New York City Rescue Mission is a wonderful organization that Grace parishioners Tom Hall, Mary Jenkins and now Mariama Ifode have been working with located at 90 Lafayette St. You can learn more about the work they do at [www.nycrescue.org](http://www.nycrescue.org). While on the website, please read the Volunteer Guidelines, and, if you would like to be a part of this event (or help them out separately), fill out the Volunteer Application. Let us know of your interest and Monday evening availability for the next month or so by emailing us at [outreach@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:outreach@gracechurchnyc.org). There will also be a signup sheet passed around at the next First Monday Outreach dinner.

#### **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.

**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.

**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.

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**The Outreach Committee is offering GIFT BASKETS for 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](mailto:mwatson@MichaelTWatson.com) or Tom Leswing: [tomLeswing@gmail.com](mailto:tomLeswing@gmail.com)