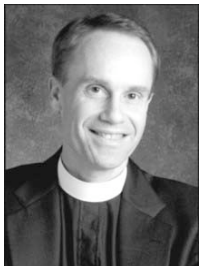


GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK
THE WEEKLY EPISTLE for 6 December 2009
The Second Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a model is worth a million. Two weeks ago we pulled together a meeting between the key contractors who will be involved in the interior restoration of the church, including George Taylor and John Boody of Taylor and Boody Organbuilders. To this meeting George and John came from Virginia by truck, and upon arrival they unloaded an enormous wooden crate. Inside the crate was a large, highly detailed, 1/20 scale model of the chancel of Grace Church, approximating how our beloved worship space will look when the new organ is installed. The model is magnificent to behold. It is a foretaste of things to come. Right now the best place we can think to keep it is in the Honor Room, where it will be available this month for all to see. Do come see it.

Speaking of the new organ, you should all be receiving by mail this week a brochure that outlines an exciting and timely alternative gift-giving opportunity to make it happen. The program is called "Adopt A Pipe." If you have someone on your Christmas list whom you'd like to honor, or a special occasion in your life you'd like to give thanks for and celebrate, or a departed loved or friend whom you'd like to commemorate, please consider doing so by adopting, or purchasing one (or more) of the pipes. The new organ will have upwards of 8,000 pipes, ranging in size from 32-foot high to the dimensions of a match stick. When you adopt one, a special parchment suitable for framing will be sent to the person you designate, and a permanent record will be kept at the church (but not on the pipe) that this particular part of the instrument bears the name you choose.

A few years ago, when the choristers traveled to Amsterdam, Dr. Allen accompanied one of their concerts on an organ that is 400 years old. The new Grace Church organ is being built according to the same time-honored methods of the trade. Here is an opportunity to do something for the ages. And it's tax deductible! I'm already thinking of whom to honor with a pipe, and I hope you will too.

See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

9:00 a.m.

The 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 9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Junior Choristers with Adults

Nursery care for children ages 0-3

Sunday School for children during the sermon

4:00 pm

Advent Lessons & Carols

Music: The Adult Choir

6:00 p.m.

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe

Music: Hymns with piano, instrumentalists

SUNDAY:

"THE FINGER OF BLAME" is the provocative title of the adult education class this Sunday at 10 am. Is the current economic crisis actually a Christian crisis? In the past several years, both our capitalist economy and national ethics have revealed some serious weaknesses. Susan Lee, an economist and commentator for NPR will argue that blame falls largely on the moral side- on the way we think about, and do, ethics. Join us in the Reception Room.

THE GCS DINING ROOM will be the site of fellowship and refreshments after the 9 and 11 am services today. Tuttle Hall is being transformed for a school drama production to be staged this week.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING - For those families who were unable to make wreaths with us last week, we have supplies left for a few more wreaths. Come to the wreath making table at coffee hour today to make your Advent wreath for the Christmas season! Suggestions for Advent devotionals are also available.

ADVENT COLLECTIONS - This year, the annual Advent Drives which collect goods for local charities will take place during all four Sundays of Advent. For this Sunday, December, 6th 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.

20s/30s MONTHLY BRUNCH - Join us at Acme Bar & Grill, located at 9 Great Jones Street at the corner of Lafayette today at 1pm. We will be meeting at the restaurant. 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 or 212-254-2000, ext. 113.

ATTENTION ACOLYTES AND ACOLYTE HOPEFULS Want to sit in the good seats in the front of the church? This Sunday, December 6th, there will be an acolyte training session after the 11 a.m. service in the main church. It will be held from 12:45-1:30 p.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

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.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP ON SUNDAY 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.

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.

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

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 or 212-254-2000, ext. 113.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2009 - The first Pageant Workday is fast approaching! We have a few people signed up, but we still need more help! Make sure you stop by the sign up sheet located on the wall directly opposite the pageant bulletin board. Get involved in the fun and lend a hand! Contact Maura Hooper at 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.

CHORAL EVENSONG with the Junior Choristers on Tuesdays is now on break until January.

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

WEDNESDAY SMALL GROUPS AND BIBLE STUDY meet this week at 7:00 pm.

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:

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!"

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.

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 174 households have pledged for a total of \$691,992. 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

SCAFFOLDING - As promised, the south transept - at last! - is full of scaffolding, as the work of restoring the interiors of Grace Church continues. Over the next few months workers will be assessing the condition of plaster, stained glass, and stone, and making necessary repairs. This work is possible thanks to all those who have contributed to the Bicentennial

Capital Campaign.

HAROLD BARRETT MEMORIAL - *"Thanks be to God for the Words, Wisdom, and Witness of Harold Elliott Barrett, 1925-2008."* So says the new inscribed stone panel in the north transept to honor the 12th Rector of Grace Church, who served from 1980-1991. The panel, which has been designed to complement the nearby memorials to the 7th and 8th Rectors, is a gift to Grace Church from the Barrett family. A dedication ceremony will be held on a date as yet to be determined.

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

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

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

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.

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.nyrescue.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. 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.

PRAYER LIST - If you would like to have a name added to the prayer list, please email Bill Nave: bnave@gracechurchnyc.org by Tuesday. Names will be read during the services for four weeks unless notified otherwise.

**A Blessed Advent
to you and yours.**

**We hope to see you at Grace,
soon and often.**