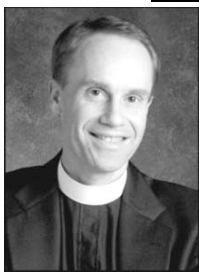


GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK
THE WEEKLY EPISTLE for 13 December 2009
The Third Sunday of Advent



One of my most fervent hopes is that you find Grace Church to be a blessing. Whether you are someone who occupies a pew every Sunday, or someone who frequently walks by and occasionally stops in, my hope is that Grace Church adds value to your life. The point of all the architecture, music, worship, education, outreach, and fellowship is to help you locate yourself in relationship to the living God, and foster a lifelong awareness of God's presence. We put it all out there in confidence that for you and may others it comes together somehow and works: that because of Grace Church you experience yourself to be connected with God.

In order to be such a blessing, the church needs your support. At last Tuesday's Vestry meeting we wrestled mightily with the budget for 2010. The challenges within it are many, but the most disturbing is this: the annual pledge campaign has fallen behind where we were last year at this time. In the wake of the economic downturn we cut our staff to the bone for 2009, deferred critical maintenance, and eliminated any draws on the endowment. We can't shrink it any further without seriously diminishing who we are and what we do. If you haven't made your pledge for 2010, please do so today. If, as the year is coming to a close, you are discovering that you can increase your giving, know that your gift will help continue the good work the Lord has given us to do. We have a high calling here at 10th and Broadway; God is trusting us and empowering us to fulfill it.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

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.

Morning Prayer and Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

Nursery care for children ages 0-3

Sunday School for children during the sermon

4:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong

A Ceremony of Carols, *by Benjamin Britten*

Music: The Girls Choir

6:00 p.m.

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: Hymns with piano, instrumentalists

SUNDAY:

THE VATICAN INITIATIVE - Earlier this fall the Vatican unveiled a plan for disaffected Anglicans to become members of the Roman Catholic Church, yet still maintain certain features of Anglican liturgy and spirituality. What does this mean for the state of Christendom in the 21st century? Come for information and a discussion about this story that is still changing on an almost weekly basis. The Rev. Stephen Arbogast, Chair of the Religion Department at Trinity School, and Priest Associate at Grace Church will facilitate in the Reception Room at 10 am.

ADOPT A PIPE! - Please pay special attention to the brochure in your pews this morning (which also were mailed to all parish homes). This Christmas you can help build the new Grace Church organ by "adopting" a pipe to commemorate or honor a loved one, or celebrate a significant occasion in your life. A special parchment suitable for framing will be sent in time for Christmas to the person you designate, and a permanent record will be kept at the church that this particular part of the instrument bears the name you choose. Don't delay.

SCALE MODEL - A magnificent model (1/20 scale) of the Grace Church chancel, showing the Bicentennial Organ, will be on view in the Honor Room this month and beyond. Stop by and peer into the future of Grace Church!

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 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.

A CEREMONY OF CAROLS - Today at 4 pm. The Girls' Choir with the Ladies of the Adult Choir will offer the much loved work of Benjamin Britten as part of Choral Evensong.

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 - Thanks to all who signed up for our first Pageant Workday on Saturday December 12th! Our next workday will be on Saturday December 19th from 12pm-4pm in the Reception Room. If you have an hour or two to spare, please come give us a hand hanging costumes and sorting props! Make sure you stop by the sign up sheet located on the wall directly opposite the pageant bulletin board. Contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org or (212) 254-2000 x.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 concluded their current round of meetings last Wednesday. Stay tuned for the next session, beginning soon in 2010.

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 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:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - This year's Nominating Committee for new Vestry members has been formed. Thanks to Charlie Johnston, Doug Skrypek, Kevin Rotheroe, Mary Connelly, and Doug Evans for agreeing to serve. According to our parish by-laws the Committee is to consist of the Warden not up for reelection (Charlie), two Vestry members (Doug Skrypek and Kevin), two parishioners named by the Rector (Mary Connelly and Doug Evans), and the Rector (Don Waring) who serves as an ex-officio member. If you would like to suggest parishioners of Grace Church whom you think would make good Vestry members, please fill out the form you will find near the bulletin board outside the Reception Room and place it in the box marked "Vestry Nominations."

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 **by Thursday the 17th of December**. You may also place your completed forms in the wooden box outside the Reception Room.

2010 ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

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 181 households have pledged for a total of \$704,792. **Unfortunately, we have fallen behind where we were last year at this time**, when 198 households had pledged for \$731,152. We are still aiming to reach our ambitious goal of \$1,000,000 in pledges (last year was \$912,000) in order to grow in ministry. 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

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, January 4, 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. Additionally we hope to sell individual mugs with Bishop's Blend coffee for \$10.

CELEBRATING OUTREACH: Thanks to the hard work of Outreach member Karen Dautresme and the generosity of the owners of a local shoe store, 99X we were able to distribute over 600 pair of new shoes this past week to a variety of worthy organizations, including the GO Project, New York Rescue Mission, and Salvation Army. Many thanks for your fine initiative! Also, another huge food delivery was made to the Church of the Village who send these words: "Our hearts overflow with gratitude for your abundant gifts of food for our neighbors facing hunger. Your stellar generosity and compassion are deeply appreciated by those increasing numbers who are in need in our midst. (Louisa Fawcett, Church of the Village).

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 or 212-254-2000, ext 100 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.**