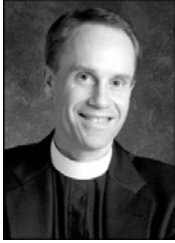
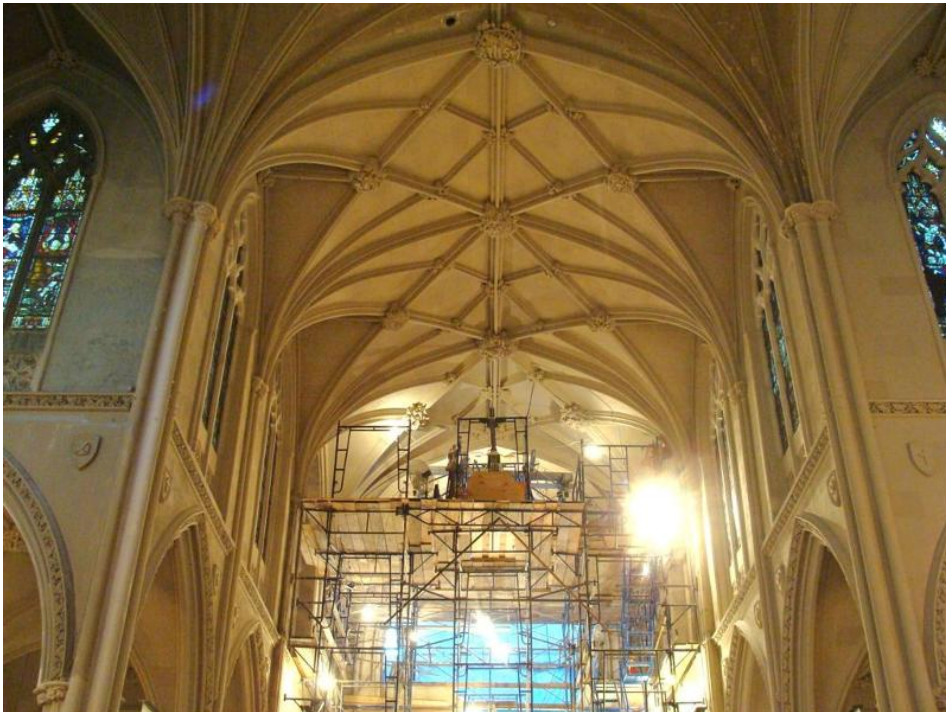


The Weekly Epistle
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2011
GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK



Dear Friends,

This week, as promised, more than half of the scaffolding that protruded into the nave for the past six months has been removed. The chancel is back in service, the choir pews are back in place, and beautifully restored stained glass, stone, and plaster is revealed. A picture is worth a thousand words, so without further ado, behold:



See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

9:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe

Music: The Parish Choir

Nursery care for children ages 0-3

Sunday School for children ages 3-8 at 9:00 am

11:00 am

Morning Prayer, Rite I and Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe

Music: The Adult Choir

Nursery care for children ages 0-3

Sunday School for children ages 3-8 during the sermon

6:00 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Linda Bartholomew

Music: Hymns with instrumentalists



And let us also thank everyone so far who has made a financial pledge to the work of the Lord through Grace Church for the year 2012. In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, and to empower the ministries of the church for our own and future generations, please make your commitment to a financial gift for the coming year.

To read the 2012 Annual Campaign brochure and/or make your pledge now, click the image of the brochure at left.

If you did not receive your annual pledge package in the mail, or if you have any questions about pledging, please contact Brian Hagan, Director of Development, at 212-254-2000 x119 or bhagan@gracechurchnyc.org.

Announcements

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & GREENS The beauty of Grace Church is enhanced each year at Christmas time by generous donations from our parishioners. You may donate [HERE](#) (scroll down to FLOWERS). We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount you can give. Thank you! *We will gladly take donations right up until Christmas, however for your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Christmas bulletin, it must be received by Friday, December 16th.*



DEC 18 ANNUAL ADVENT DRIVES

continue on Sunday, Dec 18 ("Undie Sunday"), as we collect new men's underwear to be distributed by the NYC Rescue Mission. All donated items may be placed in the baskets in the narthex. We thank you in advance for remembering our neighbors in need this season. Update: Many thanks to all who donated last week - 4 shopping bags of toiletries were delivered to the Seaman's Church Institute to be included in gifts for mariners working far from home on Christmas Day.

THE SUNDAY FORUM is on recess until January 8th.

COMING SOON

DEC 21 - GREENING OF THE CHURCH 7 PM

Get ready for a fun, festive evening of church decorating on Wednesday, Dec. 21st at 7 pm (directly after the 6 pm service). Many hands make the Church look beautiful! RSVP to the Rev. Linda Bartholomew at lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org.



CHRISTMAS AT GRACE CHURCH

DEC 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - Preparations are in full swing for an amazing Christmas Pageant, featuring 103 talented beasts, shepherds, and villagers.

Be sure to arrive early for a good seat! Doors open at 3:15 pm.

7:30 pm SEASONAL PRELUDE OF MUSIC - Stephan Tharp, organ

8:00 pm A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS - The Choir of Men and Boys with the Girls' Choir, Sermon by the Rector

10:30 pm SEASONAL PRELUDE OF MUSIC FOR BAROQUE TRUMPET & ORGAN - John Thiessen, trumpet, Patrick Allen, organ

11:00 pm CANDLELIGHT CHORAL EUCHARIST - The Adult Choir, Sermon by the Rector

DEC 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

11:00 am FESTIVE HOLY EUCHARIST WITH CAROLS - The Adult Choir, Sermon by the Rector

DEC 26, 27 - The church and offices are closed.

JAN 5 - THE ECW OF GRACE CHURCH will meet next on Jan 5, 6:30-8:30 pm. Contact Elana at elanafundos@gmail.com to be added to the e-mail list.

JAN 8 - AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS by Gian-Carlo Menotti. Choral Evensong. The Adult Choir offers this dramatic sacred opera in the context of evening prayer at 4 pm in the historic sacred space of Grace Church.

Jan 11, 18, 25 - SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY On Wednesdays at 7 pm (directly after 6 pm Holy Eucharist) we will read and discuss the Epistle of James.

JAN 13-15 THE ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT at Holy Cross Monastery is now full. However, if you did not sign up and wish to attend, we'll do our best to accommodate you. Please contact the Rev. Linda Bartholomew at lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org by Thursday, 12/22.

PARISH LIFE

EDYTH MCKITRICK MEMORIAL SERVICE Edyth, long-time parishioner, and driving force for nearly 40 years of assembling the Grace Church archives, will be remembered here at Grace Church on January 14th at 2 pm.

THE RESTORATION - DEC 2011 UPDATE - As promised, half the scaffolding has been taken down and the chancel is returned to service in time for Christmas. Thanks to our facilities and construction crews for an amazing job well done. What awaits is new lighting and the Te Deum window, on schedule for March 31 completion. For further details and pictures of the latest work, log on to: www.gracechurchnyc.org and click "Restoration." TO HELP place your check made out to "Saving Grace" in the collection plate or in the mail to Grace Church. You may also give online at www.gracechurchnyc.org (click GIVE, scroll down to SAVING GRACE). We are deeply grateful for your gifts to the current and future families of Grace Church.

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in Tuttle Hall on Sundays, and in the Reception Room during the week. If you would like envelopes for 2012 and have not yet made a request, please contact Brian Hagan, Director of Development, at 212-254-2000 x119 or bhagan@gracechurchnyc.com.

DID YOU MISS A SERMON?

Click below to read or listen to a sermon

<http://gracechurchnyc.org/online-sermons/>