

The Weekly Epistle
The First Sunday after the Epiphany
January 8, 2012
GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK



Dear Friends,

Being a person of particular faith in NYC can be challenging. On the one hand, this great metropolis is a striving, driving secular place, where faith in God is quickly associated with blinkered acceptance of antiquated world views, and participation in time-consuming rituals. On the other hand, the grid of Manhattan alone is filled with churches, cathedrals, temples, mosques, meeting houses, and synagogues representing a multiplicity of faith traditions. What is more, in most cases these buildings are not museums, but filled with people practicing their faith. So it's an intense secularity on the one hand, and a dizzying diversity on other hand.

We have it easy compared to the Rev. Dr. Titus Presler, the speaker at this week's Sunday Forum. Titus has been with us before as the preacher on Grace Church School Sunday in 2010. Since then he has been the Principal of Edwardes College, in Peshawar, Pakistan. At our Sunday Forum he will discuss the opportunities and challenges of leading a church institution of higher education where most of the faculty and students are Muslim and the wider society of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province is wracked by religious and political violence along the border with Afghanistan. A picture show will accompany the talk, and there will be time for questions and discussion. Preview the college at www.edwardes.edu.pk, and join us on Sunday, 10 am in Tuttle Hall. Coffee and breakfast treats are served.

See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

Schedule of Services

9:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

11:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Baptism

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Girls' Choir with Adults

4:00 pm

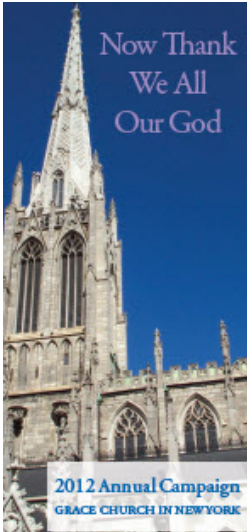
Choral Evensong

AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS by Gian-Carlo Menotti

Music: The Adult Choir

6:00 pm
Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry
Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe
Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

Announcements



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.

UPDATE: As of last week, 184 households have pledged for a total of \$863,831. This compares favorably to last year at this time, when 158 had pledged for \$764,115. The news is encouraging, but we still have a ways to go in order to reach our goal of \$1 million. If you have not made your pledge, please don't delay.

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

If you have any questions about pledging, please contact Brian Hagan, Director of Development, at 212-254-2000 x119 or bhagan@gracechurchnyc.org.

SUNDAY JANUARY 8

SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM FORGING MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN A CONFLICTED SOCIETY (see the Rector's letter for details)

20s30s SECOND SUNDAY BRUNCH is today! Parishioners in their 20s and 30s are invited to join us for our first brunch of the New Year at Silver Spurs (Broadway and 9th Street) today following the 11 am service. Meet 20s30s group member Laura Crone in Tuttle Hall where she will gather and lead the group. You can identify her by the red flower pin she will be wearing. Hope to see you there!

AM AHL 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.

COMING SOON

JAN 9 - OUTREACH MONDAY Start the New Year with a festive potluck supper in Tuttle Hall on Jan 9th starting at 6:30 pm and ending promptly at 8. Meet people doing interesting Outreach projects or come ready to share your own ideas. Contact the Rev. Linda Bartholomew at lbartholomew@gracechurchnyc.org for more information.

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

FEB 5 - THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held in Tuttle Hall on Sunday, Feb. 5 immediately following the 11 am service. Reports will be given by the Nominating Committee, the Treasurer, the Head of Grace Church School, the Senior Warden, and the Rector. A delicious

lunch (\$5 per person suggested donation) will be served.

THE VESTRY NOMINATING COMMITTEE is pleased to announce the following slate of persons to be voted on at our Annual Meeting. For a third of three two-year terms as Junior Warden: SARAH COGAN. For a second three-year term: JACK BROWNING, DOUG SKRYPEK. For a first three-year term: BRETT PERTUZ, JAMES FAWCETT (both Brett and James were appointed to fill unexpired terms, and now are eligible for election to their own terms). Many thanks to the Committee and to those who have agreed to stand for election.

PARISH LIFE

THANKS TO OUR CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS for truly memorable celebrations of the Nativity four times over at Grace Church. Pageanteers, acolytes, altar guild, ushers, lay readers, flower donors and decorators, choristers, musicians, facilities staff who worked to the wee hours, and the many who simply showed up to sing praises to the newborn King - all added to the joy of Christmas.



ANOTHER YEAR OF GENEROUS GIFTS TO THE ADVENT DRIVE - THANK YOU to the Grace Church Community for four large bags of hats, gloves and scarves delivered to Ascension Church to be distributed by their Food Pantry; four shopping bags of toiletries delivered to the Seaman's Church Institute to be included in gifts for mariners working far from home on Christmas Day; nine bags filled with 293 pairs of underpants, 42 undershirts, and 18 pairs of socks to be distributed by the NYC Rescue Mission. Through your giving, you will have brought some comfort to the lives of many.

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

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.

ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS OF GRACE CHURCH - On Sunday, Feb. 12th, after the 11 am service the ECW invites you to celebrate and display your work at our Grace and the Arts coffee hour (with wine and cheese reception Feb. 11th). To participate, complete a signup sheet found in the Parish House hallway, or contact (fine artists) Krystyna Sanderson at krystynasanderson@att.net or (crafters) Stacie Waring at stacieswaring@gmail.com by Friday, Feb. 3rd.

Click below to read or listen to a sermon

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