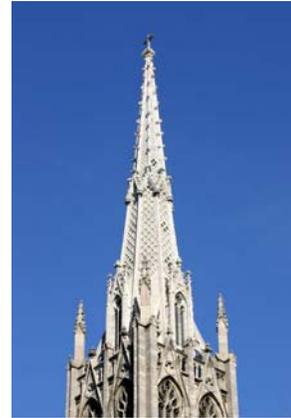


The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



In This Issue

[Cookies, Carols...](#)

[It's Easy to Pledge!](#)

[This Sunday](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

Quick Links

[Visit our Website](#)

[More About Us](#)

[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)



The beauty of Grace Church is enhanced each year at Christmas time by generous donations from our parishioners and friends.

You may donate NOW at www.gracechurchnyc.org

Sunday, December 2, 2012

The First Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

If you are anything like me, then you enjoy taking the occasional online survey that comes your way through our friends at "Survey Monkey." Why it's called "Survey Monkey" has always been a mystery, but not a great enough mystery to warrant investigation. Still, the surveys usually require only a few minutes of your time. You click SEND, and presto: you have contributed to the common good. You have raised your voice. You have registered your opinion.

The Adult Education Committee of Grace Church has a brief survey they would very much like you to take. It concerns the Sunday Forum, the adult education offering that occurs most weeks in Tuttle Hall between the 9 and 11 am services. Your feedback will be invaluable in planning future sessions. If you've never attended, why not? What topics of Christian concern would you like to see offered? If you have attended, what has been of interest and what hasn't? Please click on the link and help us be more responsive to your needs for spiritual growth and development: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LS67B69>.

Happy Advent!

See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

(click DONATE, select FLOWERS). Or you may use the Christmas flower envelope (found in this week's Sunday service bulletin and around the church and parish house) to offer your cash or check (payable to Grace Church), and place it in the collection plate, the wooden box in the Parish House hallway, or the mail to Grace Church.

We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount you can give. Thank you! **For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Christmas bulletin, it must be received by Monday, December 17th.**

Christmas Cookies, Christmas Carols...

DEC 9 - ECW CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

immediately following the 9 and 11 am services! Delicious and beautiful Christmas cookies, brownies, quiches and more will be for sale. We'll also have a children's cupcake table, and *plenty of good things to buy today and freeze for your holiday entertaining.* Please come out and support the good works of the ECW!

DEC 12 - ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAROL SING

@12:15 PM If you live or work near Broadway and 10th St, come to Grace Church during your lunch break and *join the The Combined Boys' and Girls'*

This Sunday, December 2nd

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: The Combined Junior Choristers with Adults

4 p.m. Choral Evensong

An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols
Works by Byrd, Gibbons, Palestrina, Tallis and others
Music: The Adult Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton
Music: Hymns with instrumentalists



THE LITURGICAL SEASON OF ADVENT begins today. 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 and we begin a new Church Year.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING All are welcome to make Advent wreaths today after the 9 am, 11 am and 6 pm services. (Minimum suggested donation is \$15 per wreath.)

THE SUNDAY FORUM is on recess today for Advent wreath making. The Forum resumes next Sunday.

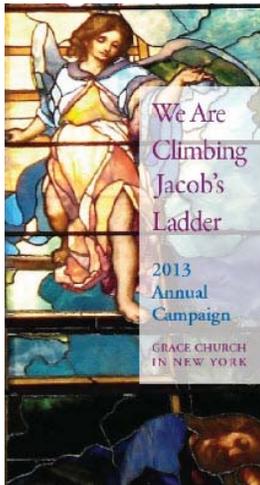
AN ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS at 4PM

Choirs in a festive half hour of song!

DEC 16 - CEREMONY OF CAROLS BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN

will be offered by The Girls' Choir with Alumni of the Choir and members of The Adult and Parish Choirs at 4 pm in the Church.

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PLEDGE?



Many parishioners have already pledged (thank you), and now pledging is easier than ever! Just click on the image above or click on the **PLEDGE HERE!** button on our smartphone-friendly site, or mail in your pledge envelope. It takes less than a minute (really); it helps us (and you) to budget for 2013; and it's a great way to show your thanks and commitment to Grace Church, our community, and our ministries.

DEC 2, 9, 16 - THE ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS for local charities begins TODAY, with a collection of **hats, scarves, and gloves** for the Church of the Ascension food pantry.

On Sunday, Dec 9th, we will collect unscented, uncolored **lip balm and travel-sized hand lotion** for Seamen's Church Institute. And finally, Sunday Dec 16th we'll collect **new men's boxers, t-shirts, and tube socks (larger sized)** for the NYC Rescue Mission. Donations will be collected in the baskets at the back of the church. Please give generously this Advent!

COMING SOON

DEC 9 - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - THE CHURCH AND STATE SERIES continues with Freedom of the Church: Religious Organizations and the Law led by [Nelson Tebbe, Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School](#). Do religious organizations have special constitutional protection from government regulation? Professor Tebbe will explain and lead discussion on recent Supreme Court rulings on employment discrimination and challenges to the Affordable Care Act.

DEC 9 - ECW CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER (see green box to the left)

DEC 9 - ALL USHERS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND a brief meeting (45 minutes) to plan the season ahead, exchange ideas and celebrate this important ministry of hospitality and welcome. A light lunch will follow. 12:30pm in the Reception Room. Contact sholton@gracechurchnyc.org for more information.

DEC 9 - 20s30s SUNDAY BRUNCH - Parishioners in their 20s and 30s are invited to brunch on December 9th after the 11am service. Location has been changed to Jack Bistro at University and 11th. RSVP to Melissa is required by Friday Dec. 7: mspindler@gracechurchnyc.org.

DEC 12 - ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAROL SING @12:15 PM (see green box to the left)

DEC 16 - CEREMONY OF CAROLS BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN (see green box to the left)

JAN 18-20 PARISH RETREAT AT HOLY CROSS MONASTERY Join fellow Grace parishioners for a quiet retreat along

Remember that pledging is simply a promise of what you plan to give for the year 2013; you have all year to pay your pledge on a schedule that suits you. So what are you waiting for? Pledge now! (and thank you)

the Hudson River at [Holy Cross Monastery](#) on Friday, Jan 18, through Sunday, Jan 20, 2013 (MLK weekend). We'll pray with the monks, enjoy delicious food, and have time for outdoor and indoor reflection and quiet. Take a breather to start your year off right. Suitable for adults 18 and over. \$250 per person; some scholarships are available. *Contact the Rev. Stephen Holton at sholton@gracechurchnyc.org by Friday, Dec 14 to reserve your spot.*

HURRICANE RELIEF

Please continue to keep the victims of hurricane Sandy in your prayers during the long process of recovery. Remember you may also visit www.er-d.org or www.episcopalcharities-newyork.org to find out how you can help further.

802 Broadway New York NY 10003 (212) 254-2000
www.gracechurchnyc.org

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