

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



In This Issue

[NEW! Family Faith Forum](#)

[Attention: Newcomers](#)

[Parish Life](#)

[This Sunday - Letter from Birmingham Jail and more...](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

Quick Links

[Visit our Website](#)

[More About Us](#)

[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)

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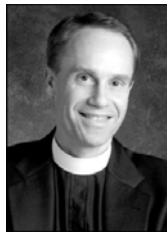


Introducing... THE FAMILY FAITH FORUM

Parents of school-aged children (2-16) are invited to participate in a monthly evening of conversation with their peers. The group will meet on the fourth Monday of each month, starting on Monday Jan 28th, and continuing through June. The first meeting will be hosted by Abby and John Carr, and will focus on "Being Light in the

Sunday, January 20, 2013

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany



Dear Friends,

The weekend of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day may be an appropriate time to raise the question of the church's voice in the moral issues affecting our society. Some will say that the church should direct its message to the heart and spirit, and avoid delving into matters that are essentially political. Last week in this space I ventured into new territory and encouraged you to sign a diocesan petition urging our elected officials to support legislation in favor of gun control. Many of you responded positively. Others let me know that they thought I had crossed a line into an area outside the church's jurisdiction. Instead, I should be talking about the unholy desires that lead to ownership of assault weapons with high capacity magazines. These folks have a point; the church should be addressing all unholy desires, and helping people through the power of the Spirit to overcome them. But until we get that figured out - until we have so successfully dealt with matters of the heart and spirit that people no longer act out destructively on their inner urges - I think it is a holy thing for our elected officials to keep deadly weapons off the streets.

My point today, however, is not gun control. It is the age-old debate between church and state, between private faith and public policy. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was someone who

Darkness." Using John 1:5, the group will discuss the challenge of living in the light when there is so much darkness around us.

RSVP to Melissa at mspindler@gracechurchnyc.org by noon on Monday, Jan 28th.

NEWCOMER CLASS Begins January 27th

Everyone new to Grace Church in the past year is encouraged to attend a 3-session newcomer class on Sundays, Jan 27, Feb 10 and Feb 17 at 12:30 pm in the Reception Room. Come to learn more about the history of Grace Church, life at Grace today, and how to connect with other parishioners and ministry opportunities. A light lunch is served. For more information, contact the Rev. Stephen Holton at sholton@gracechurchnyc.org.

PARISH LIFE

WEBSITE NEWS - Have you ever visited the **MUSIC** area of the **Church website**? This is your new year's invitation to do so. Find out about the ongoing organ installation, upcoming programs, opportunities, the choirs, music lists and daily events. Just click [HERE](#).

HOW CAN YOU FEEL MORE CONNECTED? - Serving at worship services not only can be a deeply moving experience, but it can also connect you to the community like nothing has before. No experience is necessary, as there is always someone happy to train you. You may do as little or as much as will fit your schedule. To talk about your particular gifts, and how they might best be employed, please contact Jennifer Metz at jmetz@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000 x100.

crossed the line. He believed that racism was an unholy desire, and thus corrosive to the soul. And yet it was the law of the land in many places to keep the races apart, even to favor some and disadvantage others. As a Christian pastor, did Dr. King urge change through the heart and spirit of his listeners? Indeed he did. But was he content to wait for the nation to sort through and deal with the racism in its heart before the laws were to change? No, he was not. He galvanized a movement that demanded change from our elected officials. He crossed the line, and we are a better nation because of it.

We have a long way to go as a nation. Likewise, as followers of Jesus we still "follow too much the devices and desires of our own hearts." So we confess every Sunday. The question is, at what point is it time to do something about it?

See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

This Sunday, January 20th **9 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

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

11 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon

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

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

THE SUNDAY FORUM AT 10AM - LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL The Sunday Forum Series continues with a reading and discussion of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter From Birmingham Jail led by Nicholas Birns, Ph.D., Associate Professor, The New School. Tuttle Hall at 10 am. Coffee is served.

THE ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT at Holy Cross Monastery is taking place this weekend. Please keep our parish participants in your prayers.

Coming Soon

THE INSTALLATION OF BISHOP DIETSCH as XVI Bishop of New York will take place on Saturday, Feb 2, at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine followed by a reception in Synod Hall. All are invited and welcome. Contact the Diocese with questions at info@dioceseny.org or 212.316.7400.

STORM OUTREACH

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

JAN 23, 30, FEB 6 - WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE

STUDY Continues on Wednesdays through Feb 6th at 6:45 pm (directly after 6 pm Holy Eucharist) in the Reception Room. Each week, the Rev. Don Waring or the Rev. Stephen Holton will lead conversations about the appointed Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

JAN 27 - THE SUNDAY FORUM AT 10AM - THE FAITHS OF THE TUDOR MONARCHS

The Sunday Forum Series, "Understanding the Liturgy," continues with this session taught by Nicholas Birns, Ph.D., Associate Professor, The New School. From Henry VIII's strange combination of conviction and opportunism to the Protestantism of Edward VI and Lady Jane Grey, the Catholicism of Mary I, and the incipient Anglicanism of Elizabeth I, the English kings and queens of the sixteenth century were people who felt and thought deeply about their Christian faith, and whose opinions and actions contributed to forming Anglicanism as we know it today. Tuttle Hall at 10 am. Coffee is served.

JAN 27 - FIFTH ANNUAL CONCERT OF MUSIC FOR TREBLE VOICES

by The Junior Choristers of the Grace Church Choirs under the direction of Dr. Barry Rose. This concert will feature music for the young soprano voice including works by Bach, Copland, Dyson, and the premier of a new sacred song cycle for treble voices by Dr. Rose written for the choristers. Fifteen Novice Choristers will be "whited," becoming our newest class of Junior Choristers. At 4 pm in the Church.

JAN 29 - THE OPEN DOOR VOLUNTEERS INVITE YOU

to join a team of folks who love our beautiful building, and enjoy welcoming our weekend visitors to share the space and its history. No experience is necessary! To learn more about the group, please come to the next reception on Tuesday, Jan 29th from 7-9 pm in the Reception Room. E-mail Singleton Cox at singleton.cox@gmail.com with your RSVP, or just to find out more!

FEB 3 - THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

will be held in Tuttle Hall on Sunday, Feb. 3 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. Vestry elections will take place. A delicious lunch (\$5 per person suggested donation) will be served.

FEB 4 - OUTREACH MONDAY POTLUCK SUPPER-

Please join us from 6:30-8 pm in the Reception Room to share a fellowship meal and find out about upcoming Outreach projects. Bring a dish or a

beverage to share or a non-perishable item for our Grace Church food donation baskets.

FEB 7 - ECW PARISH WIDE MEETING - All women of Grace Church are welcome on Thursday, Feb 7 at 6:30 pm in Tuttle Hall. "No Pressure" Pot Luck (bring something savory or sweet to share if you can). Items on the agenda will include reports from our Committee Chairs about recent and upcoming events such as Grace and the Arts and the Christmas Fair. Spread the word and come for fun and fellowship!

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

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