

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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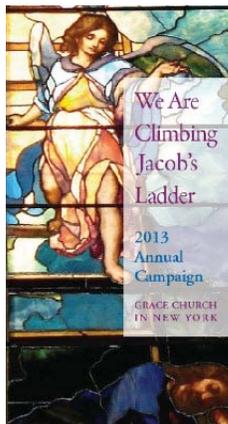
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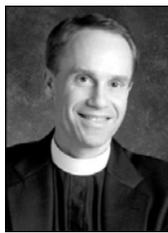


It's not too late!

...to show your thanks and commitment to Grace Church for 2013.

Sunday, January 6, 2013

The Feast of the Epiphany



Dear Friends,

I am always sorry to see Christmas fade into the rear view mirror. Christmas is crazy and frantic. It rushes towards us during Advent, full of promise and creating expectation. It comes to a climax on Christmas Eve and Day with an aura of mystery and joy, especially when the lights dim in the church and we sing Silent Night. Then it all seems to be over in the blink of an eye. The days of rest that follow Christmas fly by, and before we know it, it's time for the tree to come down, and time to lean into a new year. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read that an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, telling him to get up and go with Mary and the newborn Jesus. It was time to leave the manger, and so it is with us.

This year, the first Sunday of 2013 is the Feast of the Epiphany. Epiphany celebrates the showing forth of Christ to the world. But how are we to take Jesus from the manger and out into the world if we ourselves don't understand? So often we recite the Creeds and go through the motions of the Eucharist without really thinking about what it means. Well, if the liturgy to you sometimes seems to be a lot of hocus pocus, this Sunday may be just for you. We're going to do something different. At the 9 am, 11 am, and 6 pm services, we will conduct what is called "An Instructed Eucharist." We will do what we normally do, but in key places throughout the liturgy we will pause and add explanatory notes about what is happening. Our upcoming Sunday Forums will also lead us to a deeper understanding of the words we say and hear in the Book of

To make your pledge now, just click the image above.

Remember that pledging is simply a **promise** of what you plan to give for the year 2013; you'll **have all year to pay** your pledge on a schedule that suits you.

2013 OFFERING

ENVELOPES are now available in Tuttle Hall on Sundays and in the Reception Room during the week. If you have not yet made a request for envelopes, please contact [Brian Hagan](#), Director of Development.

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.

Common Prayer. This week I'll be giving a talk about the Eucharistic theology of Thomas Cranmer, the author of the first Book of Common Prayer. Next Sunday a renowned church historian, the Rev. Dr. J. Robert Wright, will give a presentation on the history and meaning of the Creeds. Our goal is to be more enlightened ambassadors of Christ as we head into the world and into 2013.

Happy New Year to you all. Happy Epiphany.

See you in church.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Rector

This Sunday, January 6th

9 a.m. An Instructed Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton
Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. An Instructed Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton
Music: The Adult Choir

4 p.m. Amahl and the Night Visitors Choral Evensong

Music: The Adult Choir

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

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

UNDERSTANDING THE EUCHARIST - The Sunday Forum resumes today with a new series designed to enhance our understanding of the liturgy. At 10 am in Tuttle Hall the rector will speak about the evolving Eucharistic theology of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury under Henry VIII and Edward VI, and author of the first English Book of Common Prayer. Also, today's 9 am, 11 am and 6 pm service will consist of an "instructed" Eucharist, with explanatory commentary as part of the liturgy.

AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS AT 4 PM This beautiful seasonal opera by Gian Carlo Menotti will be offered as part of Choral Evensong on Sunday, Jan 6 at 4 p.m. in the Church. Menotti originally wrote this work as a television piece and after 50 years it has become a loved part of the Season. Please join us for this special offering by the Adult Choir.

Coming Soon

JAN 13 - THE SUNDAY FORUM AT 10AM - UNDERSTANDING THE CREEDS - The Sunday Forum Series, "Understanding the

Liturgy," continues on January 13 with a presentation by renowned church historian, The Rev. Dr. J. Robert Wright of General Seminary. Fr. Wright will trace the development of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds that we recite in the liturgy, and give us a deeper appreciation for what we are saying and why. The Sunday Forum meets at 10:00 am in Tuttle Hall. Coffee is served.

JAN 13 - 20s30s SUNDAY BRUNCH - Parishioners in their 20s and 30s are invited to brunch on Jan 13th after the 11 am service. Location will be The Smith, at 10th and 2nd Ave. RSVP to Melissa is required by Friday Jan. 11th: mspindler@gracechurchnyc.org.

JAN 18-20 PARISH RETREAT AT HOLY CROSS MONASTERY Join fellow Grace parishioners for a quiet retreat along 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. Suitable for adults 18 and over. \$250 per person; some scholarships are available. SPACE STILL AVAILABLE! Contact the Rev. Stephen Holton at sholton@gracechurchnyc.org a.s.a.p. to reserve your spot.

FEB 4 - OUTREACH MONDAY POTLUCK SUPPER & MEETING - Please join us from 6:30 - 8 pm in the Reception Room to find out about upcoming projects. Bring a dish or a beverage to share or a non-perishable item for our Grace Church food donation baskets.

20s30s Month of Mission

Find volunteer opportunities throughout the month of January to help share Gods love with those in need. These events are for all 20s30s Episcopalians in NYC and their friends. For more info:

<http://edny20s30s.wordpress.com/>

As part of this effort, **Grace Church will host a knitting group for four Wednesday evenings (starting Jan 9th)** to benefit the Seaman's Church Institute "Christmas at Sea" project which distributes gifts to mariners who are miles away from home during the holidays. For details about Christmas at Sea, visit <http://www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea>. To sign up for a fun night of knitting and fellowship (all levels of experience are welcome!), contact Melissa at mspindler@gracechurchnyc.org by noon on Wednesday, Jan 9th.

PLEASE ALSO SEE 20s30s Sunday Brunch, under JAN 13 above!

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