

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



In This Issue

[Grace & the Arts @Christmas](#)

[Why Does Jack Give?](#)

[This week](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

Quick Links


[GIVE to Grace](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

[More About Us](#)

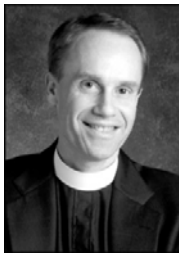
[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)

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November 10, 2013

The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

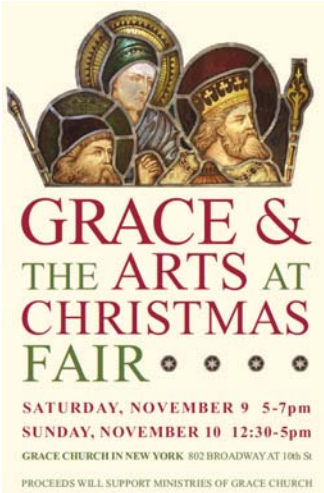


Dear Friends,

Two weeks ago in this space I wrote about the practice of tithing - the Biblical concept of giving ten-percent of one's income to God's work through the church. Every autumn we ask all members and friends of Grace Church to make a generous financial pledge for the upcoming year, and in our appeals you will undoubtedly encounter the challenge to aim towards tithing. For many, the idea is simply ludicrous! It is a nonstarter. We live in one of the world's most expensive cities. The rent is too darned high. The economy is still spotty in its recovery. How can one even think about tithing?

Let me tell you how I think about it. My wife and I are titers. We give ten-percent of our income to the church, not because it's my job, not because as the Rector I'm supposed to lead by example. We tithe because we have found it to open a window in our souls through which God's blessings can flow. Two weeks ago I shared the first five of those blessings, and today here are the second five, briefly sketched:

6. Tithing teaches me to be generous. Generous people are invariably happier people. Note that the root of the word "miserable" is "miser." The sure path to being miserable to yourself and to others is to cling to what you have.
7. Tithing puts me in a right relationship with money and possessions. I realize that what I have I only borrow briefly from God. I am a steward, a



Come to the fair and bring your Christmas shopping list!

Come on Saturday, 5-7 pm for the wine and cheese reception, or come on Sunday after church.

Giving to the Annual Campaign is most important to me because...



...Grace Church is my spiritual home. This has been a difficult year for me. I lost my father and a brother. You all prayed for them as well as for me and

manager of what belongs to God. If I give God ten-percent, that's money I don't need to account for later, when I see God face-to-face. Put another way, God is more interesting in how I manage the ninety-percent I keep than he is in the ten-percent I give.

8. Tithing teaches me to be more disciplined with finances. If ten-percent comes off the top, then I have to be extra mindful of how to apportion what remains.
9. Tithing puts me in a place where faith is possible. It teaches me to depend on God. Strangely, we want to be God's faithful people, yet at the same time we spend the best of our energies chasing earthly security. Indeed, we strive first for a life where faith is not needed, or even possible. Jesus wants us to live by faith, not with the illusion of material safety.
10. Finally, tithing teaches me that I cannot out-give God. The more I learn to be a generous person, the more I seem to have. Conversely, the less I give the less I seem to have and the more anxious I become.

I share these thoughts on tithing not as a boast, but simply to commend the way of disciplined generosity to you. Ten-percent may be too high a hurdle to clear in one year. If so, think proportionally, and try to move up a percentage point over what you gave last year. In all things, put your trust in the Lord and do your best.

This week is Pledge Sunday, and it's the ECW Grace and the Arts at Christmas Fair. See you in church!

[The Reverend J. Donald Waring](#)
Rector

This Sunday, November 10th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: The Girls' Choir with Adults

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

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

(Service times are updated weekly on the [website](#).)

PLEDGE SUNDAY! THE 2014 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

provided great strength to my family. Both my father and brother showed a particular joy when I would tell them that the members of Grace Church were praying for them. My brother would say: "Bring it on!" And so I am thankful and will continue to be thankful.

Grace Church has a wonderful tradition and a strong sense of community. It is very welcoming, and also intellectual and serious, with a breadth of programs and ministries. I am glad to have the opportunity to live out my faith by supporting Grace Church as an institution, through participation in worship (Wednesday evening is a favorite of mine-I recommend it), and service on the Vestry, as well as by extending generous financial support.

The liturgy we celebrate is especially meaningful and I am always struck by several phrases in the General Thanksgiving that capture these thoughts so well: We give thanks for all the blessings of this life and for the means of grace and the hope of glory as we are also told to show forth praise by service.

We all take special delight in the beautiful new organ which is the result of a great collective effort of praise. As a parish we

Today we ask all Grace Church members and friends to make a financial pledge to the work of the Lord through Grace Church for the year 2014. Pledge cards and brochures have been mailed out to the entire parish, and are also available in your pews, in the narthex, and outside the Reception Room. In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, and to empower the ministries of the church, we urge everyone to commit to a financial gift for the coming year.

You can fill out a pledge envelope today or, if you prefer, [you can pledge online](#). NOTE: Pledges made today do not need to be paid off today, or even all at once. **You can take all of 2014 to fulfill your pledge.**

PLEDGE TESTIMONIES - Today two Vestry members will give brief testimonies as to why they give to God through Grace Church: **Brett Pertuz at the 9 am** service, and **Paul Demartini at the 11 am** service. **Jack Browning gives his, at left.**

SHERRY AND STEWARDSHIP AFTER 6 - Come and raise a glass of sherry or sparkling (non-alcoholic) cider in fellowship as we celebrate the ingathering of pledges to support the work of the Church. Bring your pledge card to the 6 pm service, mail it in, pledge online-whatever works best for you-and then join us in the Honor Room afterwards.

GRACE AND THE ARTS AT CHRISTMAS! Come to Tuttle Hall from 12:30-5 pm for this festive event sponsored by the ECW. Beautiful art, photography, lots of unique handmade gifts by local craftspeople and a "Treasures Table!" Bring your Christmas shopping list! Proceeds will support ministries of Grace Church.



have many gifts, and I enjoy being part of an effort that strives and excels in building up Grace Church now and for future generations. So on November 10th I'll be making a financial pledge to Grace Church for 2014, and I encourage you to do so as well.

Jack Browning

PIE TASTING TODAY! THANKSGIVING PIES TO BENEFIT THE CHOIRS 'Special Projects Fund' - *Come and sample the pies at coffee hour after the 11 am service!* The Fund supports opportunities for the choirs not covered in the operating budget. You can help by ordering delicious pies for your Thanksgiving feast! Place your order at the "pie box" in the parish house hallway. You may also [find order forms and info HERE](#). You may [place your order online HERE](#). (select Contribution Category 'Holiday Pies' and type your order selections under 'Comments.')

Here is a perfect way to say "thank you" to a hostess, teacher, nanny, tutor or loved one, while \$10 from every purchase goes directly to the Special Projects Fund! THANK YOU for all your prayers and support! *Order deadline: Tues. 11/19.*

NEW TO GRACE? Everyone new to Grace Church in the past year is encouraged to attend the final session of our newcomer classes today at 12:30 pm in the Reception Room. Come and have a bite to eat, learn how to connect with other parishioners and ministry opportunities, and hear **today's topic: A brief history of Grace Church, and who we are today.**

THE SUNDAY FORUM, usually held at 10 am, is on recess today. (see next week!)

COMING SOON

NOV 13, 20 - C.S. LEWIS' THE GREAT DIVORCE - WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY

with the Rev. Sarah Wood. This work of C.S. Lewis' theological imagining sets us right in the midst of Heaven and Hell, and very well may change our minds and hearts about exactly what these might be! (Wednesdays, Nov 6, 13, 20 directly after the 6 pm Eucharist. You may join at any time.)

NOV 17 - GRACE CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY & GUEST PREACHER [The Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham](#), Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary, will join us for our annual celebration of the common history and mission shared by church and school. At 10 am, Dean Markham will lead a Sunday Forum entitled *Conversations with Atheism: Arguments for Faith* (details below). At the 11 am service, Dean Markham will preach, and music will be offered by The Choir of Men and Boys and The Girls' Choir. After the service, please come to Tuttle Hall for a festive reception!

NOV 17 - CONVERSATIONS WITH ATHEISM: ARGUMENTS FOR FAITH - [the Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham](#), Dean and

President of Virginia Theological Seminary and Professor of Theology and Ethics will lead the above-titled Sunday Forum at 10 am and preach at the 11 am service. Dean Markham is the author and editor of 24 books, including *Against Atheism*, *Understanding Christian Doctrine*, and *Do Morals Matter*. Drawing on science, he argues that the theistic worldview makes more sense of the complexity of human experience than an atheistic worldview. On the way, the issues of cosmology, suffering, and other religions are discussed. Don't miss an extraordinary opportunity to engage with a distinguished and faithful scholar.

NOV 17 - ALTAR GUILD SEASONAL MEETING- Advent will soon be upon us, and so it is time for our semi-annual meeting of the 11 am Altar Guild! Please join the Rev. Stephen Holton and Co-Chair Helen DuBois in the Reception Room after the 11 am service. This brief meeting (45 min.) will permit us to prepare for the upcoming season, and to share your constructive comments. *Anyone who would like to learn more about the service of the Altar Guild is invited to [contact Co-chair Helen DuBois](#) for more information, or just come to the meeting!*

NOV 23 - SACRED VISIONS: 19th Century Biblical Art from the Dahesh Museum Collection. The ECW will host a trip to the [Museum of Biblical Art](#) on Sat, Nov 23 at 12:15 pm. All are welcome. Meet in the lobby (corner of Broadway and 61st St.) \$5 per person for entrance and tour, paid in advance. Let us know if you will join us for lunch at a neighborhood restaurant after the tour and please bring cash. Come for fun and fellowship! [Contact Elana Foundos](#).

NOV 24 - CHOIR ALUMNI SUNDAY - At the 11 am service all former members of the Choir of Men and Boys and the Girls' Choir are invited to join the current choir in the chancel and sing the morning anthems including "I Was Glad," by C. Hubert H. Parry. For more details please [contact Patrick Allen](#).

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