

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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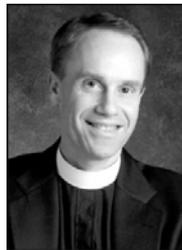
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### Pledge Sunday was November 10...

We are off to a *great start*,  
but still we hope to hear from  
everyone!

## December 1, 2013

The First Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

It is only Wednesday as I type these words, the day before Thanksgiving, but through the wonders of technology we have timed the Epistle to arrive in your inbox on Friday. As you read this it is "Black Friday," a day so called because retailers hope that their financial ledgers will be in the black by the time they close up shop for the night. In order to achieve their goals they will lure you and me into their stores with promised savings on coveted items, tempting us to buy, buy, buy. If this year is like other years, people have camped overnight outside the big-box retail stores in order to be first in line. When the doors open, a crush of the consuming public bursts inside, and races to grab the latest smart phone, or toaster oven, or salad-shooter - whatever their hearts' desire. Every year people are literally trampled, and fisticuffs ensue in the scrum to attain some common thing.

My father would tell a story from his childhood in Rutherford, NJ in the 1930s. A large American chestnut tree grew in the neighborhood, and frequently dropped its yellow, spiny burrs to the ground. Inside the burrs were the shiny brown chestnuts, smooth to the touch and beautiful to behold. All the children wanted to amass them, and would rush to the tree to gather as many as they could carry. One day when the tree had been especially generous with its fruit, my father went

*Sing to the Lord  
a new song*



2014 Annual Campaign

GRACE CHURCH  
IN NEW YORK

## 2014 Annual Campaign!

In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, and to empower the ministries of the church, **please make a pledge.**

You may [pledge online now!](#)

Or look for the brochure above - in your mail or around the Church and Parish House - and fill out the enclosed pledge envelope.

*Remember that **pledges do not need to be paid off all at once.** You can take all of 2014 to fulfill your pledge!*

out early and gathered every single chestnut from the ground. He opened the husks and put all the beautiful chestnuts in a bag. He was rich. He put the bag in a drawer and went away content that he had ample goods for the future. Within a few days he detected an odor emanating from the drawer. When he opened the bag of chestnuts, he saw that they were no longer smooth and shiny, but shriveled and moldy.

As Christians we have an ambiguous relationship with the material order. On the one hand, this is God's creation, and it is good. God conveys his Spirit to us through the stuff of the earth: bread and wine, flesh and blood, bricks and mortar. In fact, the only access we have to the spiritual realm is through the material. On the other hand, we all have too much stuff - too much stuff that often blocks our view of the Divine rather than opens a window into it. A hard message to hear today is that more stuff inevitably fails to deliver the happiness it promises. Jesus said, "*Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.*"

See you in church.

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

## This Sunday, December 1st

### 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

### 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

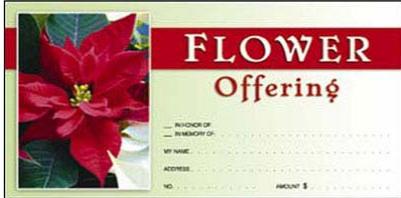
Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring  
Music: The Adult Choir

### 6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

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

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

**THE LITURGICAL SEASON OF ADVENT** begins today. The word Advent derives from the Latin *adventus*,



Every year at Christmas time it is the generous donations from our parishioners that enhance the beauty of Grace Church. You may use the **Christmas flower envelope** (found around the Church and Parish House) to offer your cash or check, and place it in the collection plate, the wooden box in the Parish House hallway, or the mail to Grace Church.

You may also [donate online](#) (click GIVE, scroll down to FLOWERS). We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount. Thank you!

*For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Christmas bulletin, it must be received by [Tues, Dec 17<sup>th</sup>](#).*

## AID TO THE PHILIPPINES

To assist in the recovery efforts following the devastating typhoon, consider [Episcopal Relief and Development](#). ERD is partnering with the Episcopal Church in the Philippines to address critical needs and plan for longer term relief and recovery.

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 Matthew, the liturgical color is purple and we begin a new Church Year.

### COME AND MAKE A WREATH!

Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks prior to Christmas is a great way to keep our thoughts focused on the coming of Christ, and to help teach our children the real meaning of Christmas. On the first Sunday of Advent, Dec 1st, after the 9 am, 11 am or 6 pm services we'll have all the materials ready for you. All are welcome! Experienced wreath-makers are encouraged to help others! Sign up as a volunteer by [contacting Melissa Spindler](#). (Suggested donation per wreath: \$15.)



*(After the 6pm service, come to the Honor Room for wreath-making and refreshments!)*

### DEC 1, 8, 15 - THE ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS

for local charities will begin today, with a collection of hats, scarves, and gloves for the *Church of the Ascension food pantry*. On Sunday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, we will collect unscented, uncolored lip balm and travel-sized hand lotion for *Seamen's Church Institute*. And finally, Sunday Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 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!

**THE SUNDAY FORUM** is on recess today, and resumes next week, Dec 8 (see description below).

## COMING SOON

### DEC 3 -WOMEN PROPHETS IN 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

**ENGLAND** Professor Emerita of English and long-time member of Grace Church, Diana Benet, will present an informal talk focusing on two very

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different women and describe the conditions that enabled them to claim authority on spiritual matters. Hosted by the ECW and including their signature "No pressure" pot luck! This event is open to ALL WOMEN who are members and friends of Grace. Tuesday, Dec 3 AT 6:30 in the Reception Room.

**DEC 6, 7 - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS - THE CHORAL SOCIETY** and Orchestra of Grace Church, under the musical direction of John Maclay, will perform on Fri, Dec 6 at 8 pm and Sat, Dec. 7 at 3 pm. Music of Palestrina, Bach, Mendelssohn, Parry, Pinkham and Gjeilo, and audience carol sing! [Purchase tickets HERE](#) (click on "Concerts" and follow instructions for payment) Tickets sell quickly, so don't delay!

**DEC 8 - WHAT DOCTORS FEEL: How Emotions Affect the Practice of Medicine - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM** -Patients often assume that doctors keep all their emotions safely in check, and that all of their decisions are based entirely on cool reasoning. But emotions permeate clinical decision-making at every level, whether acknowledged or not. This presentation offers an insider's view on how emotions affect doctors and the care they are able to give. *Danielle Ofri, MD, PhD, and author of What Doctors Feel, is an Associate Professor of Medicine at NYU School of Medicine, but her clinical home is at Bellevue Hospital. She writes regularly for the New York Times about medicine and the doctor-patient relationship and is the author of numerous books about life in medicine.*

**DEC 8 - 20s30s SECOND SUNDAY**

**BRUNCH** Members and friends in their 20s and 30s are invited to brunch on Sunday Dec 8th after the 11am service at Tink's Restaurant, 102 E 7th Street (between Avenue A and 1st Ave) . Melissa will gather the group in Tuttle Hall before walking together to the restaurant. [RSVP required to Melissa Spindler by 5pm on Friday December 6th!](#)

**DEC 8 - FAMILIES SERVICE PROJECT** Families and friends help stuff Christmas gift bags to be distributed to the children of the GO Project. Miss Melissa will have supplies ready in Tuttle Hall after the 9am and 11am services. Come help your children share the joy of the season with those in

our community. Contact Melissa if you'd like to financially support this effort.

**DEC 8 - ADVENT LESSONS AND MUSIC** - A beautiful service of music, lessons and prayers for the Advent Season with works by Hancock, Manz, Palestrina, and Piccolo. Plan to bring a friend and enjoy singing 'O come, O come, Emmanuel,' 'Lo! He comes, with clouds descending,' and many more of your favorite Advent Carols. Sung by The Adult Choir at 4 pm in the Church.

**DEC 11 - THE COMMUNITY CAROL SING** All are welcome to come and sing with The Combined Boys' and Girls' Choirs in this festive annual event! 12:15 - 12:45 pm in the Church.

**DEC 15 - JEFFERSON'S CHRISTIANITY - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM** - Faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Series. Author David Holmes, who has written extensively about the faiths of U.S. Presidents, will connect themes of Thomas Jefferson and the "Jefferson Bible" (i.e. Belief in the 18th century) to present day attitudes on belief.

**DEC 15 - ECW CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER** immediately following the 9 and 11 am services! Delicious and beautiful Christmas cookies and confections will be for sale. We'll also have a children's cupcake table, and plenty of good things to buy today for your holiday entertaining. Please come out and support the good works of the ECW!

**DEC 15 - GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING** Families are invited to come make a gingerbread house after the 11am service. \$15 per house, and [\*RSVP required to Melissa Spindler by 5pm on Friday December 13th.\*](#)

**DEC 15 - 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.

[www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org)

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